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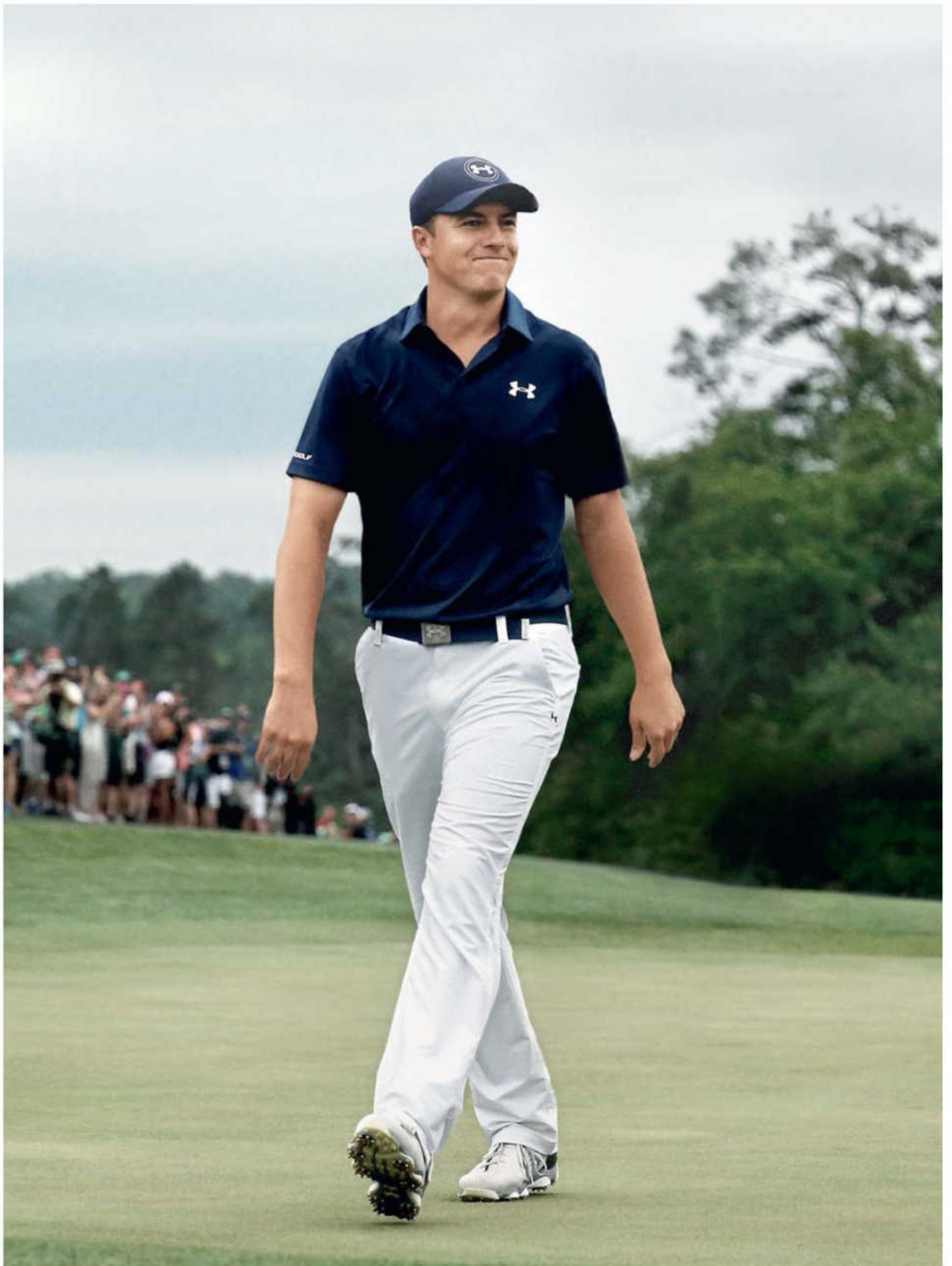
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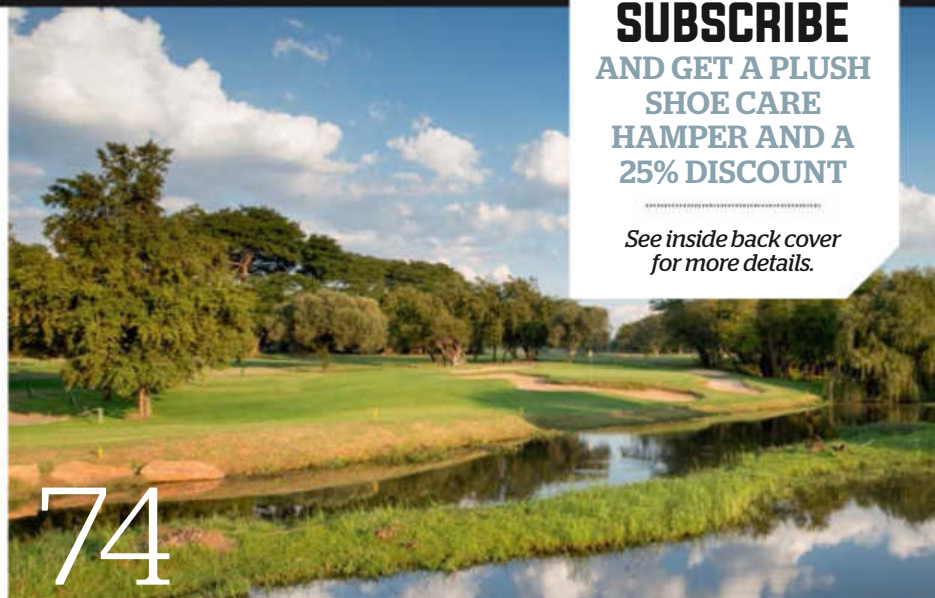
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OPENING SHOT

CLOSET WORKERS

BEN HOGAN TOLD US THE ANSWER WAS "IN THE DIRT", BUT JUST HOW DIRTY THE CURRENT PLAYERS GET IS HARD TO KNOW.

The trouble with being laid-back, it would seem, is that people assume this trait applies to all facets of your life. When it comes to golf, that's a dangerous assumption to make. Ernie Els may, on the surface, appear to have the carefree disposition that earned him the Big Easy moniker all those years ago, but to surmise that he takes short cuts when it comes to his golf game would be a big mistake. Ernie, as those close to him will attest, is still one of the hardest grafters around.

Another to suffer from this misconception is the (mostly) amiable 2011 Open champion Darren Clarke. On a press trip to Northern Ireland in 2013, I was lucky enough to join a group of journalists at Royal Portrush Golf Club. As luck would have it, we teed off in, quite simply,

the worst conditions I have ever experienced. We had driving rain, howling wind, and it is safe to say that the mercury never came close to threatening double figures. Even the seagulls were walking that day.

Now, I'd never had reason to play golf in five layers of clothing, so I figured it would be wise to take a few practice swings on the range before venturing out into the squall. I expected to have the range all to myself, but in the far corner stood a rotund figure, cigarette hanging out of the corner of his mouth, hitting knock-down irons into the driving rain and wind.

On closer inspection I discovered it was none other than the former Open champion. And four hours later, as I finished up one of the most uncomfortable yet memorable rounds of my life, Clarke was still outside, working away on the chipping green.

Some may argue that if Clarke only practised in sunny weather, he'd only get a handful of days in per year. Yet two things struck me – that he was clearly far more dedicated than most casual observers would give him credit for, and that he must have had considerably better wet weather gear than I did.



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Our cover star Louis Oosthuizen has recently endured some criticism about his work rate. Perhaps even more than Els and Clarke, Louis is one of those players who enjoys a balanced life off the course, is friendly to fans and the media and – for the most part – plays with a smile on his face.

But even someone as supremely talented as Louis (or Ernie and Darren) would be left behind if he didn't put in the requisite number of hours on the range. In this day and age it is impossible to achieve the sustained level of success that they have without working very hard for it. As a rule, hard work trumps natural talent in golf – as it does in most of life.

Brendan

Brendan Barratt
EDITOR

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WARM-UP

NEWS



GRAND SLAM CHAMPION?

WHILE THE GOLFING WORLD WAS FIXATED ON WHETHER JORDAN SPIETH COULD MOVE ONE STEP CLOSER TO COMPLETING GOLF'S GRAND SLAM, ANOTHER GOLFER – SOUTH KOREA'S INBEE PARK – ACHIEVED THE MILESTONE. HER FEAT CREATED SOME CONFUSION, THOUGH, ABOUT WHAT CONSTITUTES THE GRAND SLAM ON THE LPGA TOUR.

History was made recently on conclusion of the Ricoh Women's British Open when world No 1 Inbee Park won her second Major of the year, her sixth in the last 14 played and her seventh overall. But the most significant record was that she completed the career Grand Slam in the ladies game, having now won four of the five current Majors played for on the LPGA Tour.

This victory at Trump Turnberry Resort raised the question: what

is considered a career Grand Slam in women's golf? The issue is a confusing one due to the fact that there have been eight different events in the LPGA Tour's history that were considered a Major at one time or another. While the men's tour has only four Majors on the calendar (and doesn't look to be adding any more in the near future), the ladies tour has five and has therefore adopted its own policies when it comes to the Grand Slam term.

For players who have won four different Majors during their career,

ABOVE South Korea's Inbee Park is dominating women's golf, having just won her seventh Major.

the LPGA acknowledges them as 'career Grand Slam champions'. Park falls under this category, as she has managed to win the Ana Inspiration, the Women's PGA Championship, the US Women's Open and the Women's British Open – all while they have been considered Major championships.

For players who have won five different Majors during their career, the LPGA acknowledges them as 'Super Grand Slam champions', and due to the tournaments considered as LPGA Majors changing in the past, there has been one player who has achieved this status: Karrie Webb.

The Australian managed to achieve this by winning the du Maurier Classic in 1999, the Nabisco Dinah Shore (now the Ana Inspiration) in 2000, the US Women's Open in 2000, the LPGA Championship (now the Women's PGA Championship) in 2001 and the Women's British Open in 2002. The du Maurier Classic was no longer a Major from 2001 onwards and the Women's British Open only became a Major in 2001 but Webb was able to win these events while they were considered Majors.

Park can join Webb as a Super Grand Slam champion by winning the Evian Championship, which is the fifth current Major on the LPGA Tour since 2013. She did win the event in 2012 when it was known as the Evian Masters, but it was a year too early to be considered a Major.

Park is currently considered a career Grand Slam champion following her victory in the Women's British Open and, at 27 years old, is the second-youngest player, behind Tiger Woods, to have won four different Majors. In her current form, it is likely she will become a Super Grand Slam champion and perhaps take it a step further should the LPGA decide to add a sixth Major.

PLAYERS

SA'S CHALLENGE TOUR CHARGE

WITH THE SUNSHINE TOUR TAKING A LENGTHY WINTER BREAK, MANY LOCAL LADS HAVE PLIED THEIR TRADE ON THE EUROPEAN CHALLENGE TOUR.

A healthy crop of South African Sunshine Tour players have been travelling around Europe this year taking on the locals on the European Challenge Tour. The results have been positive.

Haydn Porteous claimed his maiden professional title in April when he won The Barclays Kenya Open, beating Brandon Stone in a playoff. The victory put him in good stead for the rest of the season and will hopefully culminate in a full European Tour card for 2016.

There hasn't been another local winner on that tour since. However, during the Sunshine Tour's winter break, the likes of Oliver Bekker, Justin



LEFT Haydn Porteous has been the most successful South African on the European Challenge Tour this year, winning The Barclays Kenya Open.

Walters, Dean Burmester, Porteous, Stone, Merrick Bremner, Thruston Lawrence, Dylan Frittelli, Zander Lombard and Jake Roos have all been performing admirably on the European Tour's feeder circuit.

Bekker has made the cut in all but two of his starts this year, with a seventh place in the Najeti Open his best finish. Walters has been working on getting back the main tour card he held last year, but has struggled with consistency. A tie for fifth in the Najeti Open tops his performances this year.

In only his third full Challenge Tour start, Burmester nearly claimed his first title, but fell back in the final round of the Aegean Airlines Challenge to eventually take second place on his own. He continues to impress.

There have been mixed results from the rest of the Sunshine Tour players. However, one can't help but feel another victory is looming.

NEWS



PHOTO: CARL FOURIE

SCHUHKNECHT DEFENDS ONE-ARM TITLE

SOUTH AFRICAN ONE-ARMED GOLFER REINARD SCHUHKNECHT RECENTLY SUCCESSFULLY DEFENDED THE WORLD ONE-ARM TITLE.

Schuhknecht's successful defence comes on the back of a fourth-place finish in the Nedbank South African Disabled Open and after winning the world title last year, he managed to defeat seven-time world champion Nick Champness 1 up, holing an eight-foot putt on the 18th hole to triumph. The tournament took place in Ireland at Headfort Golf Club.

Schuhknecht's next tournament was in America where he played in the North American One-Armed Championship and lost in the final in Louisville, Kentucky.

Schuhknecht may only have one arm, but often drives the ball over 300 metres and has one of the best short games around. His goal is to take his talents to the Sunshine Tour in the future.

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WARM-UP

PLAYERS

RISING STAR

DEAN
MARTIN

★★★★

For the first time since he closed out a playoff victory in the Larry Nestadt event to claim his third Glacier Junior Series title 12 months ago, Dean Martin finally trusted his ability, his swing and emotions and it paid off with his first national victory in the Limpopo Open in July.

Martin finished on 10-under-par 206 at Koro Creek Golf Estate and collected the all-important points to vault to 55th in the South African Golf Association Open Amateur rankings.

"I'm extremely excited, because the last 24 months have been one long battle," said Martin.

"It was the first time in so long that I was in contention and that I actually looked forward to playing the final round. I know it sounds simple, but I feel like I've made a huge breakthrough.

"I finally got over the hurdle and I've never been more excited about the future."



PHOTO: CATHERINE KOTZE/SASPA

Martin tied fellow Central Gauteng player Matthew Spacey for the lead with a 68 in the first round, and edged one stroke clear with a second-round 68. He mixed four birdies with a hat-trick of bogeys to tie Spacey going down the last, but a birdie at the final hole saw him edge out Spacey for the win.

"I've had some success along the way, but it wasn't the kind of success where I went out on the last day and tried to win a national golf tournament," he said.

"I finally let go enough. I've been striking the ball well and playing good golf, but this time I wasn't scared of messing up. That was a



big part. I trusted everything and it came together.

"My self-belief and confidence are much higher and I feel more comfortable when I am playing a round of golf. Now I believe my goal to get inside the top 30 on the Open Amateur ranking can become a reality."

We caught up with the 18-year-old Dainfern golfer after his Limpopo Open triumph to find out more about his highs and lows and his hopes and dreams for the future.

★★★★★

Compleat Golfer: How did you get into the game and what inspires you?

Dean Martin: My dad got me and my brother Shane into the game. Many of my friends have been achieving and doing well in amateur events and my inspiration is not to get left behind.

★★★★★

CG: Best and worst moments of your career?

DM: My two best moments are when I went to play the 2010 US Kids Championships and winning the Limpopo Open. Worst moment has to be this struggle I've been through over the last two years.

★★★★★

CG: Do you set yourself goals?

DM: No, I don't. I find it puts too much extra pressure on me.

★★★★★

CG: Dreams for the future?

DM: I am currently doing my A-Levels through the British International College and trying to secure a golf scholarship to study at a college in the United States. We have been talking to Wayland Baptist University in Texas, which has expressed an interest. That win in Limpopo came just at the right time.

★★★★★

CG: Strengths and weaknesses of your game?

DM: My strengths would be driving and putting, and my weakness would be chipping.

★★★★★

CG: What part of your game has grown the most this year?

DM: I would say my driving. I purchased a Callaway Diamond Double Alpha driver in May. Although I lost approximately 10 metres off the tee, I am hitting a lot more fairways.

★★★★★

CG: If you were given the opportunity, which golfer would you like to play a round with?

DM: Definitely Rory McIlroy. I've idolised him for many years and

would love to have a chance to study him up close.

★★★★★

CG: What is your go-to club?

DM: I always go for my 4-iron, because I feel most comfortable with it.

★★★★★

CG: What advice would you give youngsters just taking up the game?

DM: School should always come first, because you will need a back-up plan if golf doesn't work out.

★★★★★

CG: What player do you think is having the most influence on men's professional golf?

DM: I think Jordan Spieth is very inspirational to the younger generation, because he has a good all-round game, and has a very strong mental game.

★★★★★

CG: Do you enjoy any other sports, either as a participant or a spectator?

DM: I enjoy playing most sports, tennis, squash, soccer and athletics. I find them entertaining.

★★★★★

CG: Tell us five things only your family and closest friends know about you.

DM: I really, really like tomato sauce; I wanted to be a Power Ranger when I grew up; I absolutely hate doing chores; my favourite movie to watch over and over is *Happy Gilmore* and my favourite tune at the moment is Cape Town, by Majestic.

★★★★★

CG: Anything on your bucket list you care to share?

DM: I want to get into the Masters at Augusta as a spectator or a player, go skydiving and hunting, make five holes-in-one in my lifetime and get my pilot's licence.



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WARM-UP

GEAR

TRIED & TESTED

JASON MYLROIE
REVIEWS THE OAKLEY
PRIZM GOLF LENSES.

Considering the amount of marketing that surrounds product launches these days, it's becoming more and more difficult to write an honest review. However, the majority of the time the new products are better in some way and will help your game. And in the case of the new PRIZM Golf lenses by Oakley, even a pair of shades can help you play better golf.

The general purpose of sunglasses is to keep your eyes sheltered from the sun and help you see clearly when outdoors. Simple sunglasses lenses, however, only darken the area in front of you, while still distorting everything thanks to high levels of glare. The new PRIZM lens technology reduces this white light and makes contrasting colours more vibrant, providing a much clearer vision.

This makes reading the correct line on greens easier. I have found the biggest difference in the overall viewing experience, where the lenses seem to make everything



lighter throughout the day and deeper into the late afternoon when shadows tend to distort vision on the course.

While these lenses will not physically help you hit the ball better, they do help to improve your vision, and this ultimately can lead to better scores – especially when it comes to putting and seeing everything more clearly when

teeing it up early in the morning or late into the afternoon.

The Oakley PRIZM Golf sunglasses are available in two different frame models: the Golf Flak 2.0 XL and Golf Radar EV Pitch frames. They retail for between R1 900 and R2 150 a pair. Also take note to make sure you buy the PRIZM Golf specific lenses as there are different PRIZM lenses designed for various outdoor activities, ranging from cycling to baseball and even trail running.



LEISURE

6

OF THE BEST RUNAWAY VICTORIES



1 **BOBBY LOCKE**

The late South African still holds the joint record for the biggest winning margin on the US Tour of 16 shots. He achieved this in the 1948 Chicago Victory National, tying with J Douglas Edgar's win in the 1919 Canadian Open. He was banned from playing on the US Tour the following year because he was "simply too good".

2 **TIGER WOODS**

No record list such as this would be complete without Tiger Woods. His 15-shot victory in the 2000 US Open at Pebble Beach is still the record in Majors and he was the only player to finish under par that tournament. He also won the 1997 US Masters by 12 shots.

3 **LOUIS OOSTHUIZEN**

The second local player on the list showed his prodigious talent back in 2008 when he crushed the field by 14 shots in the Telkom PGA Championship. He also won his first Major, the 2010 Open Championship at St Andrews, by seven shots.

4 **CHARL SCHWARTZEL**

Yet another local makes the list and he had an incredible two-week stretch at the end of 2012 when he first won the Thailand Golf Championship by 11 shots and followed it up with a 12-shot victory in the Alfred Dunhill Championship at Leopard Creek: 23 shots in two weeks is more than impressive.

5 **JACK NICKLAUS**

The Golden Bear was in his prime in 1965 when he won the US Masters, beating Arnold Palmer and Gary Player by nine shots to win his second Green Jacket. That victory on 17 under par set the low tournament scoring record at Augusta National until Tiger Woods broke it in 1997 and Jordan Spieth matched it earlier this year.

6 **RORY MCILROY**

The freckled Northern Irishman made his intentions clear when he won the 2011 US Open by eight shots and followed it up a year later by winning the US PGA Championship, also by eight shots. Earlier this year he won the Wells Fargo Championship by seven shots, showing he has what it takes to dominate.



LEISURE

WEB FUNNIES

EACH MONTH, WE SCOUR THE WEB FOR SOME OF THE BEST AND FUNNIEST GOLF VIDEOS. YOU CAN FIND THEM ALL AT WWW.COMPLEATGOLFER.CO.ZA.



1 1957 OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

The Open in 1957 was significant, thanks to Bobby Locke becoming the first South African to win the Claret Jug at St Andrews.

■ Bit.ly/1957Open

2 GOLF STEREOTYPES

The trick shot artists from Dude Perfect have put together a short clip on the biggest golfing stereotypes. How many can you recognise?

■ Bit.ly/GolfStereotypes

3 WHEN THE WIND WINS

The second round of the Open Championship at St Andrews proved to be rather breezy and Louis Oosthuizen experienced the worst of it.

■ Bit.ly/WinningWind

4 LUCKY BOUNCES

There is an element of luck to the result of each golf shot. Here are the top 10 lucky bounces on the US Tour in recent years.

■ Bit.ly/LuckyBounces



NEWS

FANCOURT GRADUATES 17 CADDIES

THE SPECTACULAR FANCOURT RESORT IN GEORGE RECENTLY GRADUATED 17 CADDIES FROM SOUTH AFRICA'S FIRST ACCREDITED PROFESSIONAL GOLFING LEARNERSHIP PROGRAMME.

The 17 caddies at Fancourt successfully completed the two-year pilot project, which initially set out to train 60 caddies from selected golf facilities in the Western Cape, Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal. Fancourt was selected to launch the programme thanks to its commitment to improving the skills of caddies in the Garden Route region and it seems only right that the industry-leading resort would see the first graduates completing the course.

Fancourt Golf general manager Lloyd Martindale was incredibly impressed with the 17 graduates.

"As graduates of our programme, these young people face a bright future," he said. "This qualification makes them highly employable and is really a launch pad to many careers in the golf industry. I believe what we have accomplished here will have a far-reaching effect on the industry."

Three of the graduates have already been employed within



the Fancourt golf operations, while another four are following coaching careers, working for non-profit organisations to teach golf to underprivileged children.

According to Martindale, the programme has taught the graduates a specific range of skills that many golf estates throughout the country require.

The project is a partnership between Cathsseta (the Culture, Arts, Tourism, Hospitality and Sports Sector

ABOVE Lloyd Martindale (left) proudly standing with the graduating caddies from the learnership programme.

Education and Training Authority) and Fancourt, and is sure to see many more success stories.

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NEWS

MPUMALANGA WINS FIRST SAGDB TEAM CHALLENGE

THE INAUGURAL SAGDB/NOMADS IMPERIAL AUTO MFC GOLF CHALLENGE TOOK PLACE IN JULY AT BENONI COUNTRY CLUB, AND MPUMALANGA CAME OUT ON TOPS.

The tournament saw 60 of the South African Golf Development Board's (SAGDB) brightest talents from around the country combine in teams of six from the 10 different golf unions to compete in medal Stableford. Five of the six scores from each team counted towards the final total over 36 holes and eventually it was Mpumalanga that triumphed.

"I can't describe how proud I am of this team," said SAGDB Mpumalanga regional manager

Edwin Compton, following his team's victory. "We were the youngest province competing this week. I knew the format would be tough on them, because none of them have had any exposure to a team competition of this kind. I am so proud of how our players handled the pressure and rallied for the win."

Ken Walker, Nomads Golf Club South Africa's director of furtherance of golf, emphasised that the event was the perfect opportunity to see the SAGDB's efforts in action.

"Golf provides a unique platform to develop a wide set of skills in children," Walker said. "It teaches perseverance, endurance and skill, while the rules and regulations in golf shape a culture of integrity, confidence, respect and achievement."

"Whether you are the world's best golfer or a teen prodigy, the road to the top takes patience, commitment and hard, hard work, but that road is made all the more arduous when you come from a disadvantaged background."

"It was absolutely wonderful to watch the sportsmanship and the skills of these youngsters and to see the sheer delight and determination on their faces as they battled for glory."

SAGDB CEO Grant Hepburn expressed his satisfaction at the success of the tournament being held for the first time.

"WHETHER YOU ARE THE WORLD'S BEST GOLFER OR A TEEN PRODIGY, THE ROAD TO THE TOP TAKES PATIENCE, COMMITMENT AND HARD, HARD WORK"
- KEN WALKER

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Robert Webb	Zwartkop Country Club	17	03/07/2015
Christiaan Kleynhans	Waterkloof Golf Club	8	28/06/2015
Nelus Loots	Whites Golf Club	16	16/06/2015
Andrew Budge	Zwartkop Country Club	12	08/06/2015
Faffa Marais	Riversdale Golf Club	8	03/07/2015

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ABOVE The successful Mpumalanga team (from left): Arvy Shongwe, Regardt Viljoen, Lonene Khoza, team manager Edwin Compton, Lovely Maelane and Gift Zulu.

"We have aimed to host a team event of this nature since Mr Johann Rupert founded the SAGDB and now that we have all

14 golf unions on board and wonderful sponsors in Nomads Golf Club South Africa, Imperial Auto and the Motor Finance Company,

the time is perfect," he said.

"It was really fantastic to give learners from all over South Africa the chance to interact with each other. They have been inspired by this experience and hopefully we can have a full house next year with all 14 unions competing.

"Events like these are crucial to sustain our learners' development, to keep them motivated and to give them incentives. We are greatly indebted to our sponsors and partners for their continued commitment to the SAGDB programme."

Mpumalanga scored 306 Stableford points to edge out Western Province by just one point, with WP's Tristan Galant taking the under-15 individual honours with 68 points, Mpumalanga's Lovely Maelane winning the under-16 age group with 64 points and Free State's Attie van Wyk claiming top honours in the under 19s with 74 points.



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GEAR

WINNER'S WEAPONS

LOUIS OOSTHUIZEN

Louis Oosthuizen may not have won the Open Championship at St Andrews, but his solid attempt as the defending champion at the Old Course was valiant and if not for one or two putts slipping by, he could've had his name engraved on the Claret Jug for a second time.

One thing is certain, Oosthuizen is back to the form that saw him win the Major in 2010 and later rise to fourth in the World Ranking and this is great news for South African golf. The man from Mossel Bay who has arguably the smoothest swing in golf is a pleasure to watch and you'll struggle to take the smile off his face even in the worst conditions.

Oosthuizen is a longstanding PING equipment ambassador and also wears the brand's apparel, which is of the highest quality. He is not one to change equipment often unless he can see a big difference in performance. He has of late, however, switched to the latest irons, wedges and driver – and the improvement on the course has been noticeable.

Oosthuizen's driving is one of his strong points and he showed this during the Open Championship, where in the playoff he hit towering, straight drives on each hole to ensure he stayed in the hunt after eventual winner Zach Johnson birdied the first two holes. Oosthuizen recently switched to the PING G30 LS Tec driver with a new prototype shaft and you can be sure he will continue to use this club for quite some time.



LOUIS OOSTHUIZEN'S GOLF EQUIPMENT SPECS

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DRIVING IRON: PING Rapture (18 degrees, 17

degrees of actual loft) with a Fujikura Tour Spec 8.8 HBX shaft.

IRONS: PING S55 (3-PW) with True Temper Dynamic Gold Tour Issue X100 shafts.

WEDGES: PING Tour Gorge (54SS), PING Glide (60TS) with True Temper Dynamic Gold Tour Issue S400 shafts.

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PLAYERS

“QUOTE UNQUOTE”

“After much consideration, I have decided not to play in the Open Championship at St Andrews. I’m taking a long-term view of this injury and, although rehab is progressing well, I want to come back to tournament play when I feel 100 percent healthy and 100 percent competitive.” – **RORY MCILROY’S STATEMENT AFTER INJURING HIS ANKLE PLAYING FOOTBALL WITH HIS FRIENDS.**

“I said then, and I feel the same way now, you can’t live your life in fear. You have to enjoy the moment. I didn’t feel like anything (McIlroy) was doing was an unnecessary risk. He was just playing around and accidents happen.” – **PHIL MICKELSON’S OPINION REGARDING RORY MCILROY’S INJURY.**

“Whether I intended to or not, I took something that wasn’t allowed. I called a penalty on myself, that’s the best way to look at it. I did it immediately, so much so it took (the US Tour official) by surprise.” – **SCOTT STALLINGS AFTER BEING SUSPENDED FOR 90 DAYS FOR A VIOLATION OF THE US TOUR’S ANTI-DOPING POLICY.**

“I feel you can’t go on forever and if you’re going to step off, there’s no better place to do it than here. It’s time to go.” – **OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP 1ST TEE ANNOUNCER IVOR ROBSON DISCUSSING HIS DECISION TO RETIRE AFTER THE OPEN AT ST ANDREWS.**

“Walking up the 18th hole, actually on the tee, I told my son, I said, ‘Michael, there should be no tears, this should be all joy. There have been lots of wonderful memories we’ve had, we’ve shared here. You and I have shared some and had so many others that let’s go up and go out and enjoy the walk up the last hole.’” – **TOM WATSON ON PLAYING HIS FINAL ROUND IN THE OPEN.**

“I felt like I was playing well enough to win this event.” – **TIGER WOODS THOUGHT HE HAD A REALISTIC CHANCE OF WINNING AT ST ANDREWS.**

“I’ll probably have less hair then, and hopefully a better game.” – **TIGER WOODS’ THOUGHTS ON RETURNING TO ST ANDREWS FOR THE 2021 OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP.**

“I said to (Middlemo), ‘You know this happens every week. This has happened for, like, the last three or four or five months. We keep making bad mistakes and you’re not helping me in these circumstances.’ And he just lost the plot at me. He just told me I could go eff myself.” – **ROBERT ALLENBY RECOUNTS WHAT WAS**

SAID WHEN HE FIRED HIS CADDIE MICK MIDDLEMO HALFWAY THROUGH HIS FIRST ROUND IN THE CANADIAN OPEN.

“I’ve known Rob for a long time and I’ve known Mick for a long time. It’s disappointing that at age 42, or however old he (Allenby) is, he’s still treating people that way and how many good caddies he’s gone through.” – **FELLOW TOUR CADDIE SIMON CLARKE’S ACCOUNT OF WHAT HAPPENED IN THE FIRST ROUND OF THE CANADIAN OPEN WHILE CADDYING IN THE SAME GROUP.**

“Let’s get one thing straight, yesterday I did not play golf at all or fire my caddie after nine holes. No confusion needed.” – **STUART APPLEBY’S STATEMENT AFTER BEING CONFUSED WITH ROBERT ALLENBY IN THE PAST.**

“We need Tiger Woods. Why? He’s a man of colour. We need a black champion.” – **GARY PLAYER’S OPINION ON TIGER WOODS CONTINUING TO PLAY PROFESSIONAL GOLF IN AN INTERVIEW WITH OMNISPORT. CC**



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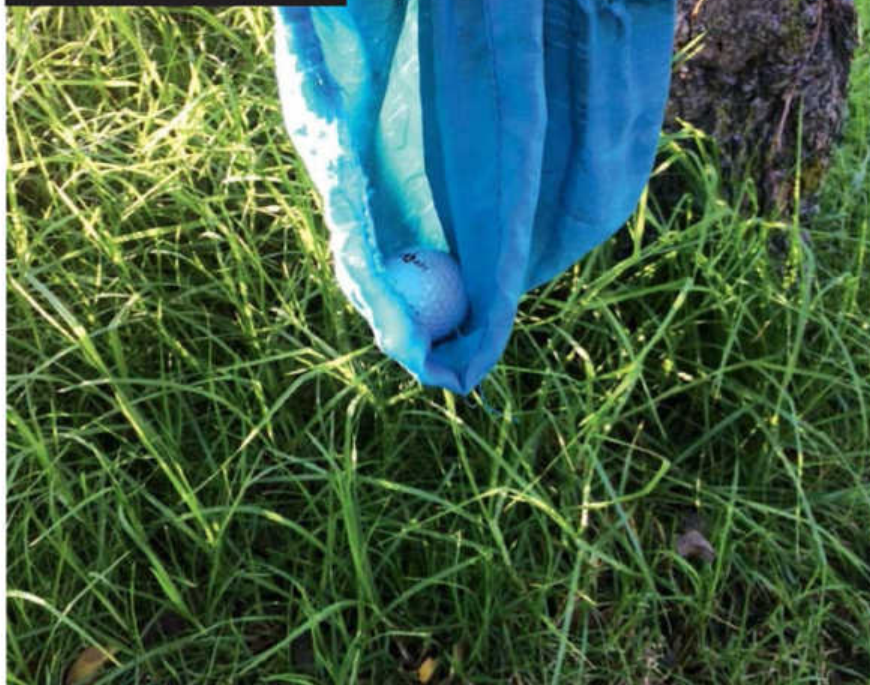
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PITCH IN

WRITE TO THE EDITOR.

Compleat Golfer, PO Box 180, Howard Place, 7450 or send email to golfeditor@ramsaymedia.co.za. Please be sure to include your full postal address.

NB: we reserve the right to edit published letters.



IN THE BAG

I play in a fairly large group of Saturday early morning golfers, from Rondebosch GC, called The Sammers. Two weeks back we teed off our par-four 5th hole, and my shot angled left, towards the boundary bush 60-70 metres ahead. It travelled about a metre off the ground, and was not a hook in the true sense, but enough to think I might be out of bounds, or have a lost ball. I asked the caddie if I should reload and he said "no problem meneer I will find your ball".

We walked forward and he showed me that my ball had landed in an old cloth bag that was hanging from a tree. Many unprintable comments were passed by my playing mates and I took the penalty drop, but still managed to salvage a point on the hole. The fine session, held every Saturday after golf, has some 20 different fines at R2 per fine, and I had to pay under the category of "More Arse than Class".

There are better places for one's drive to land, but I thought this was the most unusual spot.

Bruce Risien, Cape Town

A shot in a million, Bruce. Just when you think you've seen or done it all in this game, along comes something ridiculous like that. Here's to plenty more R2 fines. **-Ed**

WINNING LETTER

DOWN TO A DOZEN

I have seen many suggestions for reducing both the time it takes to play a round and the costs for maintaining a course. How about this one:

Reduce a round to 12 holes – and the greenfee of course. Nine holes is probably too short but 12 holes allows the course manager to open 12 of the 18 holes to play, but leaves six holes that can be maintained or worked on without too much bother. The rotation of the 6x3 holes will help maintenance costs. The only way to see if it

works is for a few courses to try it out.

Also, we have to accept that one of the main reasons for drop-off has to be the 2009 worldwide recession and that people have cut back. So I don't think as many people have fallen out of love with the game as we might think.

When it comes to juniors I think that young people tend to follow what their parents do. I remember my own children for example – if I wanted to go jogging then they did too and if I was hitting balls on the range then they wanted to too. So I would like to see more father/mother/son/daughter promotion open days on the course.

Lastly, I have had the privilege as a South African of living in Britain for

13 years. Of course we can't compare, but it is worth noting that there are hundreds of public (municipal) golf courses in Britain. We don't need to develop new municipal golf courses as such – but I do see a possibility where struggling private courses could form partnerships with municipalities. But I guess the next question is always going to be whether our boroughs in SA will be politically or financially motivated to see this as an opportunity.

Doug Harris, letter via email

All good points, Doug, although personally I'd feel a little cheated by playing only 12 holes. But if it helps to grow the game, I'm all for it. **-Ed**

PUTT OUT

I always ask myself, "Do we play the wonderful sport of golf correctly as amateur/social golfers?"

Golf is a huge test at any level and, to me, to truly play this sport and call yourself a golfer, you should play the sport as close as possible to the way the professionals do.

This would be to always play the medal format, because ultimately, the aim is to get the ball in the hole, no matter how many strokes you play, as a few friends and I do as much as possible. It's fun seeing a guy putt all day. But realistically this is obviously hardly ever possible because it would take a while to complete a round.

So for me, especially because as amateur/

social golfers we mostly play the Stableford format, it just makes sense to putt out to zero. Who are we, as amateur/social golfers, to 'give' putts, no matter how short, when week in and week out we see professionals miss the shortest of putts? Dustin Johnson recently is a case in point.

My views might not make me popular, but there are many players who stress over those short putts and miss them. I am one of them at times, so let's putt out guys.

AW Fortuin, Ravensmead

I'm with you, Sir. If a putt is short enough to be considered a 'gimme', then why not simply knock it in? If you're hoping to be given the putt, then you know that you really should be putting it. **-Ed**

GOLF, ANYONE?

I recently visited Kagga Kamma Reserve in the Cederberg area and we stopped at this driving range on top of the mountain close to the reserve. To see it there I thought was something quite unexpected, and would like to share it with other golfers.

Pieter Pienaar, Wellington

Well spotted, Pieter - and it is a good place to practise those pesky long-range bunker shots by the looks of it. **-Ed**



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SOLDIERING ON, LIKE A MOTH TO THE FLAME

Should Tiger Woods hang up his spikes after suffering another humiliating missed cut in a Major championship, asks **JOHN BOTHA**.

When Tiger Woods reminded us that he wasn't "buried and done" prior to the Open Championship, some may have believed, or at least hoped, that he was going to find some semblance of form at the home of golf. Even given the fact that his performances had been embarrassingly poor leading up to the 144th Open, there were still a few takers when the bookmakers chalked up their boards; either because the odds offered on Woods winning his 15th Major were exceptionally generous, or because there were still die-hard fans expecting a miracle.

The smart money was on Woods failing to make the cut, and from his opening hole where he hit an 'iffy' tee shot followed by a 'fat' sandwedge approach into the Swilcan Burn, it was unlikely that he was going to be around at the weekend. After seven holes he was 4 over par, and on a day when no less than 63 players finished in red figures, Woods limped into the recorder's office having taken 76 blows.

No 'real' golfer can take any delight in another player losing the plot altogether, but that is clearly the reality – Woods just simply cannot play anywhere near the level he once did. But this, in itself, is

not that surprising – no player has managed to produce championship-winning golf for extended periods, but among the all-time greats, as Woods undoubtedly is, none has ever slumped so spectacularly before the age of 40.

What I do find inexplicable is Woods' determination to find a coach who will miraculously put him back on track. What he expects from his current coach Chris Como (and this name may change by the time this goes to print) is a mystery. If Woods doesn't understand the mechanics of the golf swing by now, he is dumber than I thought. It was Jack Nicklaus who pointed out that: "Tiger's running from teacher to teacher. In today's technology, I think Tiger just needs to go back and review some of his own things rather than listen to somebody else."

Golf analyst Brandel Chamblee also put it well when he said: "I don't know that it's sad, it's mysterious, because time hasn't robbed Tiger Woods of his game – he's done this to himself. He's traded his genius for the ideas of others." Paul Azinger recently put it perfectly: "Everyone wanted to swing like Tiger. Except Tiger."

It was the immortal Ben Hogan who said that if a player is searching for the secret to a repetitive, reliable swing, they will "find it in the dirt" – meaning that time spent hitting divots on the practice tee is preferable to making radical changes or rebuilding a swing from scratch, which Woods has now done four times. It does amuse me how Woods keeps telling us how well he is hitting the ball, and after he fails to make any kind of respectable score, he then falls back on, "I just didn't get anything out of the round." One accepts that Woods has to remain positive, and at the pre-Open press conference Woods let it be known that: "I'm hitting the ball much more solid (his grammar has never been that great). I'm controlling my flights." (As one wag put it, the only flights Tiger controls are those in his private jet.)

More than a few observers have taken to wondering why the world's former No 1 continues to punish himself by

competing. So far this year Woods has managed to hit a modest 52 percent of fairways, ranking him 194th out of 199 in driving accuracy. His greens in regulation figure of 62 percent is worthy of a lowly 190th place and, most alarming of all, his stroke average of 72.79 is the second worst on tour.

The game has seen a number of very fine players, among them Major champions, suddenly disappear into obscurity. Others players who have found themselves struggling to make cuts but wished to stay involved in the game accept lucrative contracts to commentate on television. But Woods seems determined to soldier on, at least for the foreseeable future, and for that we must give him credit. Perhaps like a moth to a flame, the lure of the limelight is too great to retire gracefully. Maybe he genuinely believes that he will discover that Holy Grail, or find the coach who will flick a switch and all the other players will be competing for second place again.

What Woods has achieved can never be overstated, and while it must be agonising for him to struggle to overcome whatever demons have wreaked havoc with his game, he probably still feeds off the cries of his adoring fans, even those buffoons who shout "get in the hole". **CG**



JOHN BOTHA

■ A former professional, John is a respected TV, radio and print journalist.

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TRUMP IT!

Donald Trump is loud, arrogant and often controversial, but it's these qualities that have suddenly made **JOANNE LEFSON** such a fan.

Donald Trump is a 2016 US presidential candidate, but he is also a real estate magnate and business tycoon whose portfolio includes hotels, a beauty pageant, a fashion line, a magazine, a cologne, a few expensive divorces and the worst hairpiece known to mankind. He's also got a big mouth. Not shy at blowing his own trumpet when it comes to telling everyone how many courses he owns (15, by the way) and how many he's busy building (the latest is Tiger's design in Dubai), his property portfolio is worth billions. If only he could buy a golf swing – and maybe a better hair transplant.

I've never been a fan of the loudmouth, arrogant American – but I have to admit that I'm becoming one of his biggest fans. That's not to say that I agree with everything he says. Do I think all Mexicans have lots of problems; that they are more about drugs, crime and rape than hot salsa? No – although I saw my fair share living in California for 10 years. But who am I to talk? My favourite movie of all time is *Nacho Libre* and hey señor, bring on another plate of guacamole. The point is that he is stirring things up – both on and off the course. He's a hungry brat kid in a candy shop of controversial subjects and just like sugar, it's pretty sweet to watch.

Democracy in America today generally means 'keep your mouth shut if you think anything other than

"EVERYONE JUST PLAYS THE HYPOCRITICAL GAME. TRUMP DRIVES IT STRAIGHT DOWN THE MIDDLE."

the mainstream majority.' Trump is probably the only public figure in the world today who doesn't yield to the crowds on conformity; he calls it as it is. It's the reason why he has lost (or is in the process of losing) every major business partnership he has, and why he leads in the American Republican presidential polls – the minority, unfortunately.

Given the opportunity, Trump always prefers to talk – and play golf. Being a guy who can walk the talk on most subjects, having made it big in several areas, it is interesting to hear his views on the game of golf and where it's headed. He acknowledges that the golfing boom is alive and thriving in Asia – and that the golf business alone is fine.

More recently, however, it's his controversial views on the game that have landed him in hot water. Not surprisingly, Trump's golf interests have come under fire thanks to his anti-Mexican remarks, specifically from the PGA and Cadillac, which had both entered into an official partnership with Trump last year around the WGC-Cadillac tournament, which was held this year at his Trump National Doral course. Cadillac has a huge operation in Mexico – and while the car company didn't comment on Trump's Mexican utterances, the PGA felt compelled to respond when Trump stated that golf should be kept exclusive.

In a casual interview with *Fortune* magazine, Trump said that golf should be kept for the rich elite – that it should be a game that people aspire to instead of having the PGA try to force it down everyone's throats.

He went on to say that golf should be something beautiful, elegant, and that people should aspire to work hard so that some day they would be able to play golf, and be able to afford to play it.

It was all very awkward – the PGA had to clearly state that Trump's remarks didn't reflect the views of its organisations – and that while the LPGA Tour, PGA of America, US Tour and USGA didn't usually comment on presidential politics, Trump's comments were inconsistent with their strong commitment to an inclusive and welcoming environment in the game of golf.

Hmm, as long as everyone speaks the same language, right? Remember that undemocratic proposition by the then LPGA commissioner seven years ago, to make English a compulsory language on the LPGA Tour? That's my point: everyone just plays the hypocritical game. Trump drives it straight down the middle.

What to really say about Trump? Loathe him or hate him, at least he's livening up CNN. Now that Tiger has gone, who wants to hear about suicide bombers and gay priests supporting gay marriages in DC? Let's not get Trump started on the latter.

The only way to really get him back is to go back to his hair: even the *New York Times* once said it was such an elaborate structure that only an architect might be in a position to criticise it.

So, Mr Trump, for stating how it really is, even though you can't even buy an invite to the Oscars because you're such a 'grass' hole, you're not fired! **CG**



JOANNE LEFSON

■ A former Springbok golfer, Joanne is a popular writer and TV presenter.

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FORGOTTEN MEN OF SA GOLF

We've all heard the names Locke, Player and Els, but there are a few local stars who have snuck under the radar despite great achievements.

In 1924, Bert Elkin won the SA Open. He was one of only four people who won the Open between 1921 and 1934 whose surname wasn't Brews. Jock Brews won four Opens and his younger brother Sid won eight. Ten of their 12 were won in these years.

Bert Elkin was the professional at Metropolitan Golf Club in the middle of Cape Town. Bert's son Ken also turned professional and excelled in many areas of the game.

Ken was the pro at Mowbray for 37 years. He was also a golf course designer and was responsible for the likes of Parow and Devonvale in the Cape and the original Windhoek CC. Ken also built and ran the Lions Club Driving Range, which wasn't far from Mowbray. For many years the Lions Club ran this for charity. Ken was an old-style club pro who was always in his shop and ready to serve the members of Mowbray, for equipment, lessons or just advice. My most vivid memory of Ken was when a member came into the shop and asked for change. Ken told him, "I've done a deal with the local bank. I won't give change if they won't sell golf clubs."

They say no one remembers who came second. That doesn't apply to golf. The bank manager cares, as does the wife and family.

In 1961, the SA Open was played at

East London Golf Club. It was the first of two wins for Retief Waltman, who was one of Gary Player's biggest rivals in the early '60s. In those days, the South African Amateur and Open were played at the same course over two weeks. As big as the story of 22-year-old Waltman's win was, 17-year-old Barry Franklin's runner-up finish was even more so.

He finished ahead of Bobby Locke, Harold Henning and Denis Hutchinson, who were the top players of the time. The next year, Barry Franklin and my brother, John, became the first two teenagers to reach the final of the SA Amateur. Barry represented South Africa in the Commonwealth Games in Australia and the Eisenhower Trophy in Japan. He went on to win events on the Sunshine Tour and European Tour, with the German Open being the biggest win of his career. In the early '70s, he took up the position of club pro at Kempton Park.

South Africa's greatest-ever amateur golfer was Reg Taylor. Reg was dominant in the '50s, which was a decade of incredible amateur success. Amateur golfers, starting with Jimmy Boyd in 1953, Reg in 1954, Arthur Stewart in 1958 and Hutchie in 1959, won the South African Open. During these years, Reg was regularly in the top 10 in professional tournaments. Asked why he didn't turn professional he said, "I've found that the basics in life are quite important to me, things like food and clothes."

In those years there was only one South African professional who made a living solely from golf, and that was the great Bobby Locke. It must be remembered that between 1935 and 1955, Locke won nine South African Opens. He only played in those nine. For the rest he was playing overseas.


Reg played extensively overseas and won the French and Canadian Amateur titles among many others. He was also one of the few South African amateur golfers who won both the SA Amateur and SA Open. Although he started playing top amateur golf in the '50s, he was still

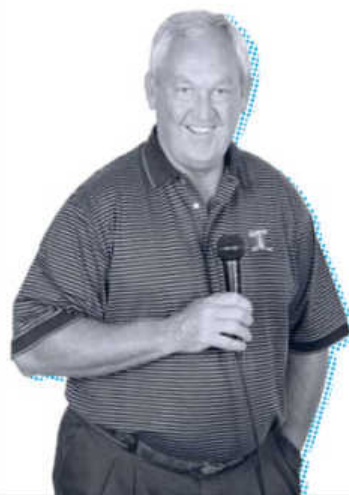
playing and winning in the '70s.

He won his first club champs at his original home course, Kensington, in the '50s and his last at the River Club in the '90s. Reg was named as the best South African Amateur of the 20th Century by *Compleat Golfer* and was inducted into the Southern Africa Golf Hall of Fame.

There are not many golfers who can boast that they beat Jack Nicklaus head-to-head while he was still in his prime. Cobie Legrange can.

The highlight of a wonderful career took place in the Australian Masters when Cobie holed a long putt on the 17th to edge ahead of the great man. Cobie also won the British Masters twice and was a regular winner on our Sunshine Tour and in Europe.

Cobie stopped travelling internationally when his first child was born with a hole in the heart and he decided to take up the job as the club pro at Randpark, a post he held for over a quarter of a century. He raised the bar for club professionals in SA. His shop offered the largest variety of golf equipment and a member or visitor could always stop by to get great advice, be it on equipment or something more technical, like the golf swing. 



DALE HAYES

■ Dale Hayes won 27 titles, as well as the 1975 European Tour Order of Merit.

Golf is a legendary sport that provides endless challenge and excitement for golfers all over the world. But the game also makes an important contribution to tourism, employment, socio-economic growth, sport development and the environment.

The Africa Golf Summit will be a draw-card for a wide range of stakeholders relating to the golfing world. This includes professional and amateur golfers, VIPs, sport, tourism and business professionals and a range of government and private sector delegates. Speakers at the summit are renowned specialists from South Africa, Africa, the US and the UK.

AGS promises to deliver break-through opportunities for a range of key players in the golfing, tourism, economic development and sporting sectors. The summit will gather experts from a diverse range of business and government fraternities and provide a much-needed platform for meaningful progress to be made through the golfing industry. Important topics to be explored and debated include the following:

- Growing a sustainable golfing community in Africa
- Establishing a Golfing Centre of Excellence to develop young talent
- Golf tourism and hospitality
- Golf sports development
- Golf estate and property development
- Golf course design, construction, operations and management
- Hosting golf tournaments to boost job growth, tourism and economic development

Confirmed speakers to date include (but is not limited to) Scott Ferrell - President, Gary Player Design USA; Dale Hayes - Director, Zwartkop Country Club/ Presenter on SuperGolf South Africa; Howard Swan - Chairman, Golf Consultants Association and Swan Golf Designs Ltd UK;

Steve Isaac - Director, Golf Course Management, The R & A, St Andrews Scotland; Paul Gray - General Manager, Hollywood Golf Club Northern Ireland; Peter Matkovich - Principal Architect, Matkovich Design; Zaida Enver CEO, Pure Grit Project and Exhibitions Management (Pty) Ltd South Africa; Abel Edinomo Secretary General, West Africa Amateur Golf Association; Andrea Sartori Partner and Global Head of Sport, KPMG Advisory Ltd. Hungary and Ingrid Diesel - Owner Ingrid Diesel Consulting & Events.

A key item to be debated is the Africa Golf Centre of Excellence Programme, which is an initiative to make golf more accessible and to identify and develop young African golfers who can go on to represent their countries on the international golfing circuit. Industry specialists and prominent organisations endorsing and supporting the Africa Golf Summit include the following:

The Africa Golf summit is endorsed by: The PGA, Gary Player Designs, The R & A, The Sunshine Tour, The West Africa Amateur Golf Association, Hills & Forrest, The International Golf Course Architects, The Hospitality Property Fund, SWAN Golf Designs, RETOSA, Golf Consultants Association, and Golf Environment

The outcome of the Africa Golf Summit is aimed at promoting golf as a sport and leisure activity, using golf to contribute to social upliftment, job creation, inbound tourism and the development of the golf tourism sector, investment opportunities and environmental sustainability, and ensuring that young golfing talent is identified and nurtured.

To book a delegate package or explore branding opportunities contact:

aalia@puregrit.co.za | ciara@puregrit.co.za

For more information visit www.africagolfsummit.com

LOTG

LEGENDS OF THE GAME

LOREN ROBERTS

LOREN LLOYD ROBERTS

BORN: 24 June 1955

TURNED PRO: 1982

FIRST PRO WIN: 1979 PGA Assistant
Professional Championship

CAREER WINS: 26

MASTERS: T3 2000

US OPEN: T2 1994

OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP: T7 2000

PGA CHAMPIONSHIP: T5 1990



**TO GET SOME TIPS FROM THE
BOSS OF THE MOSS,** log onto
bit.ly/l-roberts

BOSS OF THE MOSS

Putting legend Loren Roberts' game was refined over a long and admirable career, and polished further on the senior tour, explains Liezl Geldenhuys.

A late introduction to golf had a 16-year-old Loren Roberts worried that he would never be able to make it on the US Tour soon enough after joining his high-school golf team. But as most know, golf is an ageless sport comparable to no other in terms of longevity, and it's never too late to start.

This fact was proven by Roberts, who only achieved his first win on tour when he was 38. After a 21-year-old Roberts turned pro during his second year of university, it took him five tries in the US Tour Qualifying Tournament to win his tour card in 1980 for the 1981 season. Even after that, he had to wait 13 more seasons before he enjoyed his first US Tour victory.

"The first question a reporter asked me was, 'Why did you stick around for 12-and-a-half years without winning?'" said Roberts. "It wasn't exactly like I was out there going broke. But once I won, I started winning pretty much every year. I enjoy being around the game, being at the course. Why wouldn't I want to do that?"

In 1994, Roberts won the Arnold Palmer Invitational, which he successfully defended the following year. In 1994, he also placed second in the US Open at Oakmont, his highest finish in a Major tournament. After ending the 18-hole playoff tied with Ernie Els – where Colin Montgomerie was eliminated – Roberts eventually lost out to the South African on the second sudden-death hole.

He was also part of the inaugural 1994 American Presidents Cup team, ended the year ranked sixth on the moneylist, and was awarded the US Tour putting title. Until 2002, Roberts would go on to win seven more titles on tour, and during that time he quickly became famed for his putting ability, earning him the nickname 'Boss of the Moss'.

"The whole thing about putting is controlling your speed," said Roberts. "Don't even worry about making it."

Often asked for advice on putting, Roberts is always keen to help. "You've got to have a little swing in the shaft," he says. "On the backstroke, if you can get the butt end of the grip pointed at your belt buckle, you're going to have some swing and some natural 'hit'. If you get too dead-handed, you're not going to have any control."

In 1995, Roberts formed part

of the US Ryder Cup team. Later that season, he was named Professional co-Athlete of the Year, and in 1998, he was inducted into the Athletics Hall of Fame of his old university, California Polytechnic State. He also decided to use his newly acquired fame on the circuit to start the Loren Roberts Celebrity Pro-Am in 1995, which he hosted for 11 years to raise funds for a Tennessee-based children's hospital.

Roberts turned 50 in 2005, three years after his last win on the US Tour, and joined the senior tour, on which he has been arguably even more successful than on the regular tour.

"I had a very nice career on the [US] Tour," Roberts said. "I won eight times, did not win a Major. That's a nice career. It's not a Tom Watson career, but I had my shot."

He started his run with a bang, winning a Senior

Major, the 2005 Tradition at The Reserve Vineyards – only the third senior event he competed in.


"Guys who play consistently on the regular tour all the way up to the day they turn 50 seem to do very well [on the senior tour]," said Roberts. "You have a positive attitude, and you're very confident. That's what it's about. The confidence factor."

He started 2006 by becoming the first senior player ever to win the opening three events of the season in a row. His performance stayed strong right through the year, winning his second Senior Major, the Senior British Open at Turnberry (Ailsa Course), and being given the Byron Nelson Award for lowest stroke average, which he received again in 2007. He also served as the assistant captain for Tom Lehman, that year's Ryder Cup team leader.

Roberts won the Charles Schwab Cup twice, in '07 and '09, as well as two more Majors. He took the 2007 Senior Players Championship at Baltimore Country Club with an astonishing six-stroke margin ahead of runner-up Tom Watson.

His 2009 Senior British Open was won after a playoff with Mark McNulty and Fred Funk at Sunningdale Golf Club.

He still competes on the senior tour, and spends the rest of his time returning to his golf club roots as the head pro of Chalk Mountain Golf Course.

"If I can help a kid, that makes me feel good," said Roberts. "I just like being around golf." 



ABOVE Roberts is one of the best players never to have won a Major. He has made up for it on the senior tour, however, having won four.

BTN

BY THE NUMBERS

PUTTING: THE GOOD AND THE BAD

ON THE GREEN

2 is the number of three-plus-putts that both Ernie Els and Louis Oosthuizen have had during the 2015 US Tour season.

3 is the number of three-putts Rory Sabbatini has had from inside 5ft during the 2015 US Tour season. That's the most of any player.

6.83 is the average number of one-putts that George Coetzee has been making per round on the European Tour in 2015. He is the stat leader. George is also fourth in the putts-per-round stat.

18 is the lowest number of putts ever needed to complete an 18-hole round on the US Tour.

48 metres (157 feet) was the length of the putt made by former Olympic swimmer Michael Phelps during the 2012 Alfred Dunhill Links Championship, making it, according to some sources, the longest-ever televised putt.

80 holes was the average streak without a three-putt on the US Tour in 2015. Brian Stuart had the longest streak, with 395 holes.

96

is the average number of three-putts Kyle Stanley suffered per round during the 2014 US Tour season. With 32 three-putts through 36 rounds, Trevor Immelman is currently lying second to the leader in the 2015 three-putts-per-round stat, Lucas Glover.

ABOVE: Graham DeLaet of Canada is one of four US Tour players who have somehow managed to six-putt a green this year.

67.5%

is Retief Goosen's conversion percentage on the US Tour in 2015 when putting from nine feet; his conversion percentage from six feet is slightly worse, at 66.67%.

90.5% was Luke Donald's make percentage from inside 10 feet on the US Tour in 2014. The tour average was 87.1%.

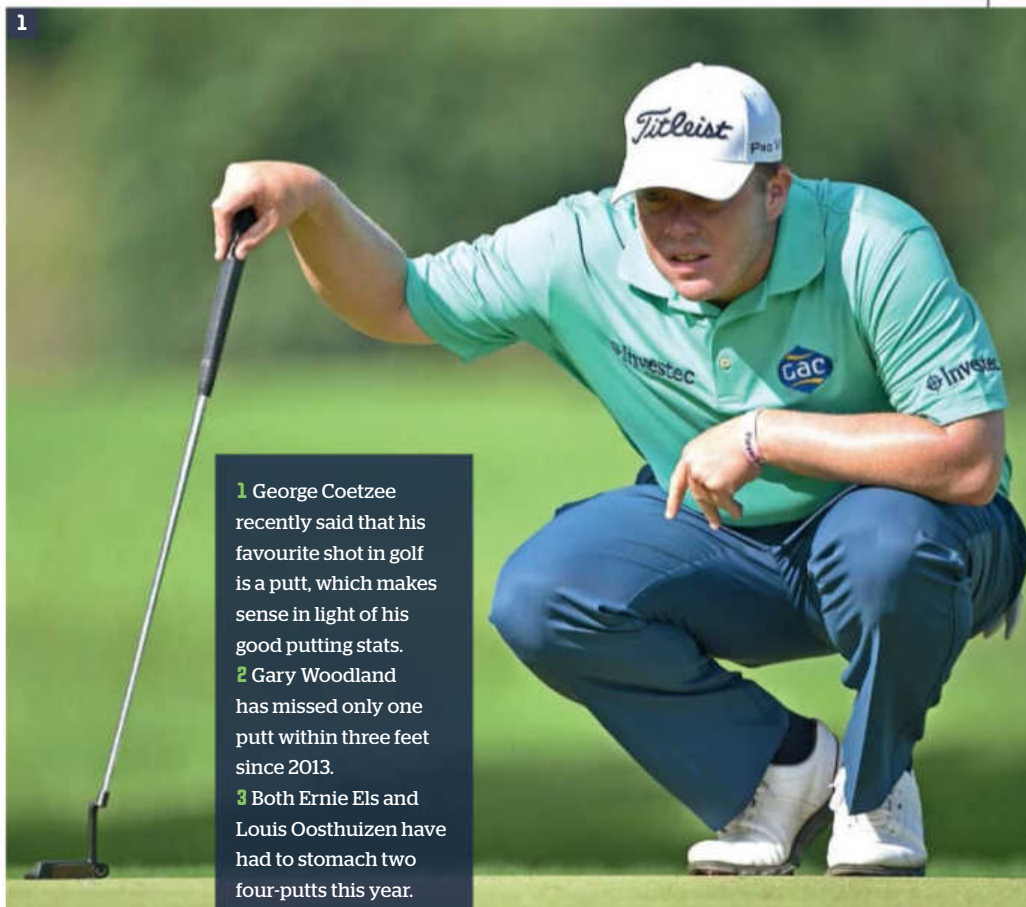
95ft (29 metres) is the length of the longest putt made during the current US Tour season, by Chad Campbell in the Northern Trust Open. The longest putt made by a South African has come from Danie van Tonder, when he drained a 62-foot (19-metre) putt during the WGC-Cadillac Championship.

1 641 is the total number of putts Gary 'Gimme' Woodland hit from inside three feet in 2013 and 2014. He didn't miss one. This year he has hit 406, of which he has missed only one from the 'vomit' distance.

1946 was the year in which Ben Hogan, with a chance to force a playoff, missed a two-footer for par on the 72nd hole of the Masters. In the 1989 Masters, Scott Hoch, with a putt to win, also missed a two-footer on the 72nd hole. He went on to lose in the playoff.

2003 was the year in which 66-year-old ammie Fergus Muir made an ace on the 114-metre par-three 5th at the St Andrews Eden course... with a putter.

2 600 square metres is the size of the green on the par-five 5th at the International GC in Massachusetts, USA. It's the world's largest green.



11 is the number of one-putts that Retief Goosen drained in the final round of the 2004 US Open Championship, on greens so fast they were described as "comical" by Jerry Kelly - one of 28 players (Ernie Els included) who couldn't break 80 that day. **CG**





Exclusive  Interview

KING LOUIS MARCHES ON

IT'S BEEN A TOUGH COUPLE OF YEARS FOR SMOOTH-SWINGING LOUIS OOSTHUIZEN, BUT RECENT MAJOR PERFORMANCES SHOW HE HAS OVERCOME THE DEBILITATING BACK INJURY THAT HAS PLAGUED HIM IN THE PAST. NOW, WITH HIS TRAVELLING MATTRESS IN TOW, HE'S LOOKING TO CONQUER THE GOLFING WORLD ONCE MORE.

It seems like most South African professional golfers have been blessed with great golf swings, with the likes of Ernie Els, Retief Goosen, Richard Sterne, Charl Schwartzel and Louis Oosthuizen coming to mind. However, another common element with these players is how injuries have also blighted their careers at some point, with all of them enjoying successful returns.

Oosthuizen is currently living proof of this, and after two torrid years dealing with a back ailment that stemmed from a previous injury, arguably the smoothest swing on tour has returned and the performances in recent Majors show he is hungrier than ever to add to the Claret Jug he won in 2010.

Compleat Golfer caught up with him two weeks before the US PGA Championship at Whistling Straits to discuss his performances in the US Open and Open Championship, and to find out more about family life and the mattress that gets to each event before he does.

Compleat Golfer: Louis, congrats on your recent performances, you've really done us proud. I take it the game is officially back?

Louis Oosthuizen: Thank you, it's been coming for a while. I feel I was really close, but I was spending too much time working on my game rather than just playing. I had a look at what I needed to work on and it was the short game, so I started working with Phil Kenyon, who has got a few guys on tour, like [Henrik]

HORSES FOR COURSES

CG: Do you think that the condition of the Old Course, being quite a lot softer and greener, levelled the playing field a bit more this year?

LO: Yes it did. The course was in brilliant shape. A few months before it wasn't looking great, but then they had a lot of rain, so it was softer. Still, 15 under, that's normal - when I won it I shot 16 under. It was great to see a really close event at St Andrews because normally you have guys winning by a big margin.

CG: The Open course really did become very difficult when you turned back into the wind - was it more a matter of survival?

LO: When we made the turn, that was the toughest I've ever played St Andrews on the back nine. It was such a hard golf course.

If you look at the 15th hole, we were hitting sandwedges in there the whole week but I hit driver, 4-iron on Monday, which is a completely different hole. I made great putts to get in the playoff, I made a good birdie on 18 and felt so confident going into the playoff, where I played well. Again, there's not really a shot I can think of that I missed. I had a few three-putts in the last round, but around St Andrews, you are going to have a few putts of maybe of 20 to 30 metres if you don't hit a good shot.

CG: What were your thoughts on the Chambers Bay course? We saw a video where you said that not one of your mates could break 100 there.

LO: It was different. It was beautiful. Obviously they didn't have a lot of rain so the fairways were dead. It was links style but not links golf at all. It was completely a different type of golf, but the conditioning was bad.

For a major tournament, or for a US Open, you can't have the greens looking like that. The 1st hole you actually had footprints on some lines in your path. That's how much sand was on it because there was no grass. There were a few greens that were really good and if they had all the greens at that level it would've been brilliant.

But it was the same for everyone. I think if you got your head around it and just played, knowing it was going to bump on a few putts, you had a big advantage over everyone else. It was a tough week to get through because you could hit really good putts or chips and they could go all over the place. In a Major, you don't want to give away shots like that - missing short putts - because it's already a tough grind just to get to play that week. That was one of the toughest I've played.

CG: Would you like to see the US Open return to Chambers Bay?

LO: I think if they have the conditioning better I would go and play there again. Like I said, the look and feel of the whole place is nice.



LEFT: Oosthuizen is one of the most jovial players on tour and will smile no matter the conditions.

RIGHT: Rickie Fowler, Ernie Els and Oosthuizen enjoying a laugh during an Els for Autism event.



LODEWICUS THEODORUS OOSTHUIZEN

AGE 32

HOME CLUB Mossel Bay GC

TURNED PRO 2002

US TOUR WINS 1

EUROPEAN TOUR WINS 7

ASIAN TOUR WINS 1

SUNSHINE TOUR WINS 7

MAJORS 2010 Open Championship

TWITTER @Louis57TM

Stenson, [Danny] Willett and [Tommy] Fleetwood. I started working with him on putting and it made a massive difference. There's more consistency and I've been feeling more comfortable over 10 feet and closer. I've also been working hard on getting healthy and fit.

I'm not working with a swing coach any more because I want to do my own thing and take a bit more responsibility for my own swing. At the end of the day I've been playing this game for so long, I know exactly what I do wrong and what I do right with my swing. I just want to do my own thing for a while.

CG: Did Phil find something wrong with your putting stroke?

LO: I always talk about inconsistency. Some days

I would putt well and other days I wouldn't. Phil videoed me and he helped with things that I knew, but I didn't really know how to get right. For example I would always take the putter back inside the line and that would mean I had to rotate it too much coming through.

Because pro golfers' hand-eye co-ordination is so good, you get away with it. So on days when I was really putting well, I would be fine rotating it, say, eight degrees back and getting it back again to square. But on a day that I wasn't – you get those days where your swing's just not good or you're just not feeling great – then I would rotate it less or more, and those would be the days when I was not putting well.

We worked on a few drills that I now do every day, just to get the putter back on a

straighter line and that has actually made it so that I rotate less. That's where it came that I started to putt looking at the hole. From 10 feet in, on a putt that doesn't break that much or on a few putts that I feel comfortable over, my stroke is better nine times out of 10 than when I look down at the ball. It frees up my mind a little bit because I'm not really thinking "take it straight back" or "don't rotate the putterhead too much". We did loads of little tests and videos to see where I'm the most consistent and it was very weird to see that the most consistent I am from 10 feet in is when I am looking at the hole.

CG: Was it a difficult thing to get used to?

LO: I always look at the best putters in the world and at the moment, I think by far, it's Jordan Spieth. His stats are ridiculous and if he keeps this going, the way he's putting, we are in trouble. Whenever he's got a putt where he just wants to free up a little bit and just think of the target, he looks at the hole and just makes a good stroke.

It was tough to do it that first week. I started it the week before the US Open, but to get myself to do it in the tournament, I was a bit nervous. I kept telling myself to keep my head still, otherwise I might miss the ball completely!

CG: You've had your fair share of injuries – is the back 100 percent fixed?

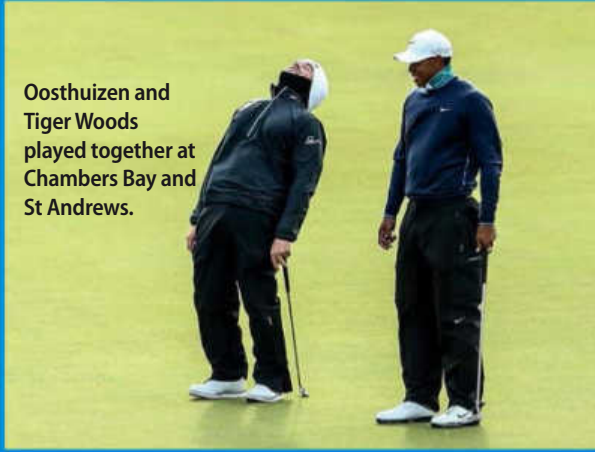
LO: The back's great. I haven't had back pain in a year, really, so the back is really good, but I've still got loads of issues with my neck.

I've changed so much in my posture with the back and hip injuries that the neck is now giving me a little bit of trouble. It all goes back to that 2005 injury, the whiplash injury, where I didn't have a good rehab programme. It's manageable; I've got my physio with me to help me through it, but it's great getting up, playing golf without having to take any pain medicine.

CG: Coming back to the US Open and The Open, how hard was it to get over such near misses – finishing second both times? Did you brush it off, or did you spend some time agonising about it afterwards?

LO: The US Open was a massive bonus, really. If I had to go back and think of shots I could've saved, I probably could've saved nine shots that first round alone.

Oosthuizen and Tiger Woods played together at Chambers Bay and St Andrews.



LOUIS ON TIGER & CO

CG: You've played with Tiger in the last two Majors where he's played poorly and missed the cut. Is it hard to see him struggle like that?

LO: Ja, it's horrible. I played with him when he was still playing good golf, on form - I think it was 2008 in Doral. It was great to see him playing all kinds of shots and pulling it off and making putts and it's just sad to see the way he plays now.

He's obviously struggling with a lot of things, with getting the club into the right position. I think his body's got a lot to do with it - he can't get it into positions that he used to. I would love for him to be able to come back and win a big tournament again just to show everyone the way he played. I think everyone now is praising Jordan [Spieth] and Rory [McIlroy] but I think people forget how good Tiger was. He hit shots that I thought were impossible, so it would be sad to see him go out this way. I would love to see him get back to that level and amaze everyone again.

CG: Do you think he will get back there?

LO: That's a tough one. I think he's got a lot of work to do if he wants to. It's getting more and more difficult because everyone around him is getting better and better. There are a lot of youngsters coming through and he's probably got a few years left to do it. If he's not going to get it back in the next two, three years, I don't see it happening.

CG: These players that you mention - Rory, Jordan - do they strike fear into people like Tiger did, or has the playing field been levelled by so many good players?

LO: I think it's being levelled. You have Dustin Johnson, Justin Rose, Rickie Fowler - all those guys and it's great for golf. Every week - especially the Majors - there's not one guy who is going to dominate. They will be up there but it can be someone else coming through who wins. Again, people forget how good Tiger was. I don't think what we've seen from him, that dominance, we're going to see again soon.

Just to be able to make that cut was huge - I really fought hard to just be there on the weekend. To get that close is tough but I think it was one of those where, even if I had a

better first round, I might not have had the same second, third or fourth rounds. I was very happy with having a top-10 finish that week after my start. The Open was a bit different.

I went in with so much confidence that week and I love St Andrews. To be honest, when I teed off on the last round I didn't think there was any way I was not going to win. I was really confident in my game, and trusting what I wanted to do. What was difficult was that the guys who went out early, when the wind wasn't that strong, were firing really low, so the front nine I felt like I was chasing the whole time. If I could've had a one- or two-shot lead teeing off, it might've been a different story but I was chasing the whole time.

CG: The playoff looked like it could have gone either way...

LO: Zach [Johnson] played well. That birdie putt on the 2nd was a great putt, as was the one on the 1st to follow my birdie. He actually ended up making a really good bogey on 17 when he went towards the road for his third shot. You normally don't have any lie there and he had a great one, the ball was sitting up so he had a chance of chipping it in. You get those breaks when you win a Major, so good for him.

CG: After your performances, you're going to every Major as one of the favourites. Do you feel like the next Major is coming soon?

LO: You're always trying to go into a Major with a little bit of confidence or playing well. Even after the US Open, I played horribly in the Travelers Championship - I think I made one birdie in two days - and Greenbrier I played okay but not great. Once I get to the Majors, I feel more comfortable, and if I feel like my game is not far off, then I just try not to put myself under too much pressure; just try and play and then see how the week goes. But I definitely

HAVING THREE SECOND SPOTS IN MAJORS TELLS ME I CAN WIN ANOTHER...

love the challenge of getting the game top-notch for a Major. When you're there, you make the best of a bad situation, bad golf course or not playing well, all those things. It's a challenge. A Major week is always a tough week for anyone and I think if you get past that, to where you just treat it as any other tournament, I think you've got an advantage over the rest of the field.

CG: Do you think it helps that you've already won a Major? Does that change your thought pattern?

LO: It definitely does - and having three second spots in Majors tells me that I can win another couple. I don't really know how long I have to be able to compete properly in Major golf, but if I look at Ernie winning at 42 three years ago, that inspires everyone.

CG: Do you feel like the playoff, holes 1, 2, 17 and 18, maybe played into Zach's hands? For three of them, it's a wedge into the green and the other plays like a par five.

LO: Ja, a little, but it still wasn't easy, except for the 1st hole. The 2nd was not an easy pin to get to, even with a wedge, and on 17, I felt Marc and I had the advantage, especially after his second shot. Then 18 plays a bit into his hands. He's one of the best wedge players there is and he's a great putter too. >



I didn't think my drive on 18 was going to go that far. In regulation I left myself with about 50 metres and that was a good distance for me. In the playoff I had 29 metres, which was a little too close. I didn't expect it to go that far. If I knew it was going to be that close I would've tried to hit a really hard drive to see if I could get it to the Valley of Sin. It might've played into his hands, but I don't think it was that big an advantage for him.

CG: There seems to be a misconception – probably because you're so laid-back – that you don't work hard enough on your game. People said the same thing about Ernie, but he's one of the hardest workers around. Does that bug you?

LO: Everyone thinks that all I want to do is farm, and drive a tractor; in fact, I only spend five or six weeks a year on the farm, and during that time I go to other places as well. I don't spend much time farming – my brother farms off my farm – while I live on the farm. There's a big difference between living on a farm and actually farming.

On the working bit, over the last few years I've been working harder than ever to get fit. Gym is something I had never done, but I changed that when I started having back problems. I'm working really hard now, working hard on my putting and doing lots of practising.

CG: Your recent results seem to indicate that the hard work is really starting to pay off.

LO: I've got my goals for what

WHAT MATTRESS MOST...

CG: Is it true that you have a mattress that gets to events before you?

LO: Yes, there is (laughs). Five months ago I was speaking to a few guys about my back and neck issues. I said, "I don't understand how every single week when I'm at home, I can get up in the morning and I feel great. I can go straight to the range and start doing whatever I want to do, but whenever I get to the tournament, something's always niggly or bothering me."

We had a few weeks where I got to the hotel and the mattress was horrible. On the range the next day there were always guys saying, "My mid-back is so sore" or "My neck is so sore". So I got hold of the company where I bought my mattress – it's the exact same one as at home – and there's a guy on the tour who moves all our golf clubs week to week in a big truck and a trailer. I made a deal with him to put my queen-size mattress in there and when we get it to the hotel, we organise to put it in my room. Most weeks we rent houses and we put the mattress in the house. It's been great, it's like sleeping in your own bed every week and it's made a big difference.

One week Charl [Schwartzel] got to the range and said, "My mid-back is so sore, that mattress is so soft."

I said, "I feel great, I've slept on my mattress, I'm good."

It seems far-fetched, but it's been great for me, especially the way my body flares up really fast if there's something wrong. The way I am at the moment, especially with my neck, all the little things that can help me, I need to use.

CG: Do you think you've started a trend on tour now?

LO: I don't know if anyone else is going to do it. Some weeks, it is a bit of a hassle to get the mattress into the hotel room, but there are a few guys who stay in RVs or motor homes and the tour provides a spot for them for the week. It's very convenient, and that's like staying in your own house every single week. There are a few guys who do it, like Jason Day, Rory Sabbatini and Jimmy Walker. I think a lot of guys are going that route to feel that home environment every week when they play a tournament.

I want to do and where I want to take my golf game and I feel like I've played really well over the last year. In golf, you can play really well some days and you can score horribly and then the next day you can play poorly but you can score well.

This game, especially out here now on tour, is not easy. The playing field has levelled so much that anyone rocking up to a tournament can win and if you're not on your game properly then you might finish 60th or 70th.

CG: Is the lack of wins in the US getting frustrating? Are you able to put a finger on why you haven't quite managed to get over the line?

LO: I feel I'm doing everything I should be doing. I'm just not getting myself in proper positions to go out and just have a good last round and win the event. I came close last year in the Byron Nelson but didn't have a good last round. I need to put myself into contention more, so that I'm somewhere there on the weekend. I know

that I have the game to win on the US Tour, and quite regularly, but it's just something that I need to get done. Hopefully it's still going to happen this year. I've been doing a lot of work and hopefully now the game is on the right track that I can just go out and play and put myself in a good spot to be able to do it.

CG: You seem to play better in the tougher conditions. Do you enjoy the challenge more?

LO: Whenever it's a tough tournament, I've got the mindset of everyone's-going-to-make-mistakes so I don't get down on myself if I make a mistake. But almost every week out here is tough. They're setting up the courses tougher and tougher and there are only a few weeks a year where you know it is going to be a birdie-fest, such as the Greenbrier or John Deere. Even then you need to be on top of your game because if you're not going to be around 16, 17, 18 under par, you might not be anywhere in the tournament.

CG: Off the course, how are things going with your three daughters?

LO: They are all good. It's going to be a big plunge at the end of this year because my eldest is going to start school in August. It's going to be a big change for us because normally from the end of October, we go back to South Africa through until February. It's going to change now. I think we're only getting to SA the week before Leopard Creek and we have to be out of there the first week in January.

CG: Have any of your girls taken up golf?

LO: No, I don't think golf is pink enough for them yet! They love swimming, gymnastics, horse

riding, all those things. I think once they are a little bigger I'll see if they want to play a bit of golf. My eldest loves going with me to the range. She hits a few putts and she will sit and play with her dolls on the cart. That's about it at the moment.

CG: How do you manage to balance your family with your golf and all the travel involved?

LO: That's been great so far, because they've been travelling with me most weeks. Coming off the golf course, even if you've not had a good round, they really don't care how you played. They'll just tell you, "Well played, Daddy," – even if you shot 77. Coming home and spending time with them, you realise what it's all about.

THERE'S A BIG DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LIVING ON A FARM AND ACTUALLY FARMING.

From August, I'm going to do most of the travelling myself – that's going to be a big change. They will probably come out over the weekends to wherever I am. That's going to be a big step in my life that I'm going to take and I will need to adapt to the situation. At the moment it's been great and I love having them around and during my weeks off I'm at home and I spend quality time with them.

CG: How is your wine business coming along?

LO: We are labelling our 2013 vintage wines, so I'm very excited



ABOVE: Oosthuizen came close to a second Major win in the US Open.

to taste them. It started out as more of a hobby and just a nice thing to have, but at the moment it's really going well. Sun International, one of my new sponsors, has been great with using my wines at all its resorts and restaurants. It's been a challenge but we're getting there and it's fun. It keeps my head away from golf a bit and I love the whole business side of things in my Louis 57 brand, so it's nice.

CG: And your golf course in Swaziland [Nkonyeni], has

that been coming on nicely?

LO: Ja, we have just heard some great news. They have reached their goal of selling plots so they want to break ground early next year. In the few weeks that I'm back in SA at the end of the year, I will need to make a trip there to do the final golf course designing and make sure they are happy with everything. Then I probably need to schedule another trip mid-next-year back to Swaziland when they've started the groundwork and shaping the course.

LOUIS IN THE MAJORS

US MASTERS

- PLAYED: 7
- BEST FINISH: 2nd (2012)

US OPEN

- PLAYED: 6
- BEST FINISH: T2 (2015)

OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

- PLAYED: 9
- BEST FINISH: Won 2010

US PGA CHAMPIONSHIP

- PLAYED: 6
- BEST FINISH: T15 (2014)

I'm nervous and excited about this. If it's not great, it might be my first and last design! But we have an excellent design team, so the golfers can look forward to a special links-style golf course.

CG: Looking ahead to The Presidents Cup, how are you going to beat the Americans? They are very strong team.

LO: Ja, it's a strong team, but I think we have a chance in Korea. It's always tough. We've been fighting for three years to change the points system to the Ryder Cup one, where it's only a total of 28 points and not 34. A lot of people think that's not going to make a difference, but it really does. It means you rest four guys every match and we can put out our strongest team – where I believe our top eight guys can take their guys on any day. It gets tough when it gets to 12 players. Our world ranking goes down to probably 70th and you look at the States and theirs is probably around 24. It's a big difference. Hopefully one day they'll change it to a Ryder Cup system so that you can have a proper contest. **CG**



GET IN THE HOLE

It's great to be able to hit a 300-metre drive, but it means very little if you can't get the ball into the hole from the putting green, reckons **DEREK JAMES**.

It's no secret that a good putter will always be able to put together a decent round. When everything is working they will be able to go low, but even when the rest of their game is off, a good putter will still be able to save his round. That's because putting makes up 40 to 50 percent of all golf strokes during a round. And since putting has nothing to do with strength, it's a skill that can be learnt and mastered by just about anyone. With some structured practice, you can save yourself valuable shots on the course.

Here are five drills that I use to help my students improve with the flatstick.

1. The string drill

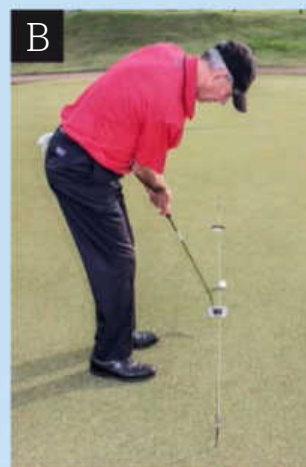
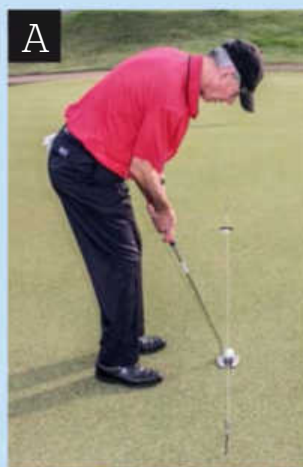
I like to use this drill for putts of under three metres in length. I try to find a straight putt and then attach a piece of string, raised high enough to putt underneath, along the line of the putt.

The first thing this does is it helps to keep your putter nice and low through the stroke. Many amateurs are guilty of picking up the club too steeply on the backswing and coming down too steeply during the stroke, with the result being a putt that bobbles and bounces. With a low putting stroke, you will get much better roll on the ball, which should help keep it on its intended line better.

It's also a good drill for helping you to visualise the line of the putt, and to make sure that you are aiming correctly. The key to making eight-foot

putts is to get the ball started on a good line and give it a chance to go in. With this drill you will get instant feedback, as you will quickly be able to see how much you are missing by and on which side. >

**PUTTING MAKES
UP 40 TO 50
PERCENT OF
ALL STROKES
IN A ROUND**



2. The lob-wedge drill

For this drill, I hit a few putts using my lob-wedge – but of course you can use any type of wedge to get the same effect. The drill is not so much about technique, but about learning to strike the ball right in the middle – across its equator.

Hold the wedge lightly, with both thumbs on top, as you would for a putting stroke. Now practise making putts with the wedge, hitting the

ball with the leading edge of the wedge. It takes a lot of concentration and patience to get this right and you will get good feedback if you strike the ball above or below its equator.

This drill also teaches you to hold the putter off the ground at address and have a smooth takeaway. It's also really hard to have a big forward press in this drill.



ED'S TOP TIP

When it comes to drills, try not to focus so much on the result. It doesn't matter if you sink the ball or not, what is important is getting a good feel for how the putting stroke should be.

3. The right-hand drill



There are differing theories about the role of each hand in the putting stroke – and most golfers have one hand that is dominant. For most golfers, the right hand provides the power in the stroke, while the left hand guides the putter back and through.

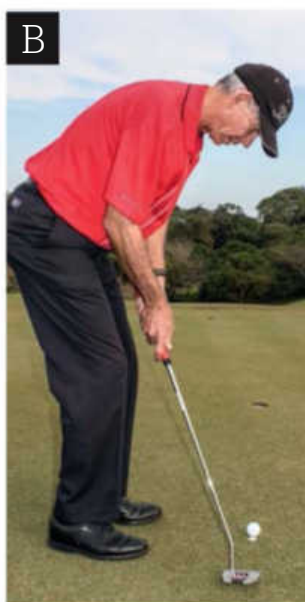
One of the best drills for feel and distance control is to putt with your right hand only – left-handers would use their left hand only for this drill.

Putting this way ensures

that the wrist on your right hand doesn't move about, but stays fixed in position, and this encourages the arm and shoulder to engage and work in tandem. So you get a pendulum-like motion without interference from your hands.

This drill is good for improving your distance control as it is much the same motion as rolling the ball up to the hole with your right hand – an action that you would be able to do naturally.

4. The coin and hold drill



A lot of amateur golfers are so anxious about making or missing putts that they pop their head up early to see if the ball has dropped into the hole.

In this drill, I place a coin behind the ball and leave it there during the stroke. The key is to watch the coin throughout the stroke until you hear the putt drop or it has gone past the hole. This helps to keep your head still during the putting stroke and allows you to hold your finish, which maintains your body angle and stops the putter from waving about. Every great putter holds his or her finish.

Keeping your head down also allows you to check that the putterhead stays square through the stroke.

5. The wood and tee drill

In this drill I have placed a wooden beam just outside the line of my putting stroke and tees 25cm in front of and behind the ball – but slightly inside the line of the putt.

This set-up encourages a slight in-to-out-to-in putting stroke on a natural arc. Take the putter back to the tee, then hit the ball and finish by



hitting the forward tee. The tees in the ground ensure that you don't take the putter back too far – from where the risk

of the dreaded deceleration is high. Instead, it forces you to accelerate through the putt, producing good roll on the ball.

If you hit the wooden beam during the stroke, then you know you have taken the putter outside the line.

The drill also ensures that if you miss the middle of the putterface, then you will hit the ball closer to the toe of the putter than the heel – which is better. **CG**



DEREK JAMES

■ Derek James is based at Southbroom Golf Club in KwaZulu-Natal as the director of golf and head professional. His stellar playing record, in which he won 11 professional tournaments, is eclipsed only by his career as one of South Africa's leading teaching professionals, specialising in the short game.

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THE WEIRD WORLD OF FLATSTICKS

WOODS AND IRONS TEND TO HAVE A CONSISTENT DESIGN METHODOLOGY, WITH THE RARE EXCEPTION. WHEN IT COMES TO PUTTERS, HOWEVER, ALMOST ANYTHING GOES, WRITES **JASON MYLROIE**.

Know anyone who has manufactured their own irons, driver or fairway wood? Unlikely. When it comes to building a putter, however, there are a host of golfers who have created their own flatstick, which goes to show just how far people will go to help them get the ball in the hole.

It is amazing how far we have come in putter design, considering that the basic premise of this club is having an almost perpendicular face to the ground that propels a ball along the surface towards the hole with minimal bouncing, if any. It was considered so basic for so long that the initial Bulls Eye putter was most popular for many decades before greens became smoother and faster, and as such, has bred a new generation of flatsticks.

These modern works of art come in all shapes and sizes and this has mostly to do with increasing the resistance of the putter to twisting on off-centre strikes (or Moment of Inertia) so that the putt is hit straight more often. While

all putters strive to achieve the same goal, it seems like the most traditional designs remain the most successful on the professional tours worldwide.

Over the past few decades, putter companies have been launched featuring unique designs that promise to make putting simpler. While some may have been, and are still, effective, others have been downright outrageous. It is worth remembering that putting is still the most personal part of the game and while one design might work for the best in the world, it might not suit your eye.

So here, to celebrate the fantastic world of putter design, we've compiled a few pages of the weirdest and wackiest putters ever created, some of which were only launched this year.

RIGHT Even the professional tours have seen their fair share of wacky putters, none more so than Matt Every's block on a shaft three years ago.





▲ **BioMech AccuLock Ace**

This is one of the latest putters to hit the market. It is said to work with your body's physics and physiology to help you line up better without changing the way your body sits naturally when putting, while the electric blue colour is said to promote relaxation. There have been images of Tim Clark testing out this flatstick.

Axis1 ▶

These odd-looking putters are fairly new too, with the company claiming that they are the first 100 percent perfectly balanced putters in the game. This means that they are never supposed to open up through the stroke. The forward hosel acts as a counterbalance for the clubhead and is said to set the centre of gravity in the middle of the face where you make contact with the ball.



ODYSSEY
SABERTOOTH

ODYSSEY
BACKSTRYKE DART

ODYSSEY
TRIBALL

ODYSSEY
FLIP FACE

Odyssey

Arguably the most popular putter brand, Odyssey has produced its fair share of wacky putters and will continue to do so. The White Hot 2-Ball has been a major hit since it launched over a decade ago and has since spawned the likes of the Tri-Ball and even the Sabertooth, a flatstick used by Keegan Bradley when he won the 2011 US PGA Championship.

More recently, the Backstryke system was introduced, where the shaft connects to the rear end of the putterhead, and the DART (direction and realignment technology) system promised to improve alignment. They even combined the two (as pictured). Next came the Flip Face putters that allowed you to change between a soft insert and a harder aluminium insert to produce two very distinct feels.

These days, the Odyssey designs are less weird and more functional, but you never know when the brand will spring another surprise. >

▼ Cobra

Definitely not recognised for its putters, Cobra did produce the odd flatstick and they sure were wacky. The futuristic Optica SL has been called the 'Star Wars lightsaber' of golf thanks to its TruGlo fibre optics in the crown that shows up as a line of lit-up green dots to aid alignment. Strangely enough, these lights require no battery and light up using reflection.

Since Cobra was sold from the Acushnet brand there hasn't been another putter produced under the Cobra name, but the brand has created some seriously good other clubs.



NIKE iC

NIKE METHOD
CONCEPT

Nike

Relatively new to the golf equipment market, Nike has managed to produce a few interesting putters in its short existence. The iC almost tricked you into better alignment through painting the crown of the putter a dark greeny-grey colour that was supposed to closely resemble the colour of the grass on a green. This left just the highly contrasting white lines on the crown for you to see (and therefore concentrate on).

Even more interesting was the oddly shaped Method Concept putter which apparently increased stability towards the toe.

All this being said, the brand has produced putters used by the likes of Tiger Woods and Rory McIlroy and they have been very simple yet effective flatsticks.

TaylorMade

It's clear that TaylorMade prefers to focus on longer-hitting clubs and as such, has not made as big an impact on the putting side. It has, however, produced a few crackers in the mallet category – none more so than the Spider. Considered bizarre at first, the design is upgraded with every new line of TaylorMade putters and the likes of Retief Goosen and Jason Day still use it on tour.

Another interesting TaylorMade design was the Rossa Inza mallet that had a narrower face and wider rear. This helped create even more perimeter weighting for increased stability.

TAYLORMADE
SPIDER

TAYLORMADE
ROSSA INZA



Clearview

This is undoubtedly the weirdest putter. The entire clubhead is see-through except for two metal inserts in the heel and toe that provide additional stability through the stroke. The aiming lines are therefore said to be unimpeded by other visual distractions. The feel at impact must be interesting, considering the clubhead is made from hard plastic.

Cleveland

In the last few years, Cleveland has produced the Smart Square putter range that uses two squares on the crown to improve alignment. For training purposes the brand also introduced the Smart Square Stubby with a clubhead that is barely wider than the diameter of a golf ball. It will certainly help you find the middle of a putterface more often.





PING SYDNEY

PING DOC 17

PING

When Karsten Solheim created the PING 1A putter in 1959 and a few years later the Anser – still considered to be the most successful design in history – he probably wouldn't have imagined some of the futuristic designs of more recent years. Yet PING has been responsible for some of the wackiest putters, all in the quest for more stability. Names such as the Craz-E and UG-LE come to mind, with their designs to match. The Doc 17 flatstick widened a few eyes, when the half-circle putter (almost the diameter of a side plate) was introduced. Then came the Sydney, a putter that has made the cover of *Compleat Golfer* in the past.

PING has spent the last few years improving the insert on its putters and has been a lot less conservative with design, but it's only a matter of time before another unique flatstick rolls out of the factory.

PING CRAZ-E

Titleist

Scotty Cameron putters produced for Titleist have always been neat and clean when it comes to design and performance, hence the premium price for one of these flatsticks. But even Don T 'Scotty' Cameron has some wacky thoughts of his own when it comes to design and this was first seen in 2004 when he launched the Futura putter. Built for maximum stability and feel, at the time it was easily one of the weirdest designs. More recently, the Futura X was launched with Adam Scott using the broomstick version of it to win the 2013 US Masters. It has since been released as a regular-length putter and is one of the most stable putters on the market.



SCOTTY CAMERON
FUTURA X

SCOTTY CAMERON
FUTURA 2004

RadiusRoll

Not every wacky putter design is a mallet. The RadiusRoll putters look like normal blade flatsticks with the exception of a curved face, which has been designed to make contact with the golf ball at the exact radius point and therefore prevent skidding. It certainly works well, but never took off in the market. **CG**



SUNSHINE TOUR INTERVIEW

■ Kevin & Brandon Stone

ROLLING STONES

SOUTH AFRICA HAS BEEN BLESSED WITH SOME HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL GOLFING FAMILIES, SUCH AS THE HENNING, HOBDAI AND PAPPAS CLANS. NEXT YEAR, WATCH OUT FOR THE STONE FAMILY.

IT'S INTERESTING TIMES IN THE STONE FAMILY.

Father Kevin, 49, is preparing for life on the senior tour, while his son Brandon is battling his way around the European Challenge Tour. If things go according to plan, both will be plying their trades in Europe next year, with Kevin on the Senior Tour and Brandon on the European Tour. Both come with some serious pedigree – Kevin is a six-time winner on the Sunshine Tour while Brandon is a former SA No 1 amateur who played in the same collegiate team as Jordan Spieth.

The Stones have played a prominent role in the South African golfing industry, with former PGA professional Kevin and his wife Desiree forming a formidable management team at clubs such as Centurion Country Club, Copperleaf, and currently, Mount Edgecombe.

Brendan Barratt sat down with Kevin and Brandon Stone to talk about their close bond, their rivalry and what we can expect from them over the next few years.

Compleat Golfer: To get started, it's pretty rare to have a father and son combination playing the same tour and the same events together. What has it been like for you guys?

Kevin Stone: It's been pretty interesting. Most of the time when we play in the same event, the focus is not on winning the golf tournament but on trying to beat each other, which is not a good thing. It's better for him to go and play where he plays and I will go play with the old bullets.

CG: Is there an extra edge to beating each other – do you even think about it?

Brandon Stone: Definitely. Even the practice rounds have something in them. We always play for something – often it's a car wash and that ends up being worth more than the tournament. It helps us in terms of getting that competitive edge, but at tournaments it can be a little bit distracting.

CG: Have you been paired alongside one another yet?

KS: No not yet. But I remember a few years ago, Brandon played an Origins event at Oubaai as an amateur and he was paired with Darren Fichardt and Ulrich van den Berg. He was about five holes ahead of me and after every three holes the scorer would

take down your scores. I would say "Five, four, four" and he'd say, "Well Brandon just made three, three, three." I thought, "Good for Brandon..."

By the time he got to the 18th, Brandon needed a birdie to shoot 59 while I was grinding my butt off feeling like I was battling to break 80!

In the end he shot 61 and I shot 71 – which was a good score – and everyone kept saying, "Gee, he beat you by 10 shots!"

I would just say, "Yes but it's easy when you're not playing for a living!"

CG: Kevin, you spent some time on Brandon's bag – that must have been fun for you guys?

KS: It's far more nerve-wracking than playing. For me, I've been in positions where I've had a chance to win and it's nerve-wracking, but you always know what you are thinking. When you are standing on the other side of the bag, you don't know what he's thinking.

There will be times when I see the shot and think, "Just rip a driver down here," and he will pull out a 2-iron or he will want to hit driver when I'm thinking 2-iron. But we debate it and he never, ever hits a shot unless we are 100 percent together on it.

BS: The thing is that my dad's playing now too, so it's a lot more difficult from a scheduling perspective. My dad is a great caddie for me because the only thing I really struggle with is controlling my emotions on the course. I tend to feel like I can do anything that I can visualise and he sometimes parks the brakes and gets me to play a bit more conservatively.

CG: I'm sure you've enjoyed travelling together too?

KS: We are very fortunate that we have been to some brilliant countries – places



KEVIN STONE

AGE	49
TURNED PRO	1987
PROFESSIONAL WINS	10
SUNSHINE TOUR WINS	6
SUNSHINE TOUR TOP 10s	64
LOWEST ROUND	63
SCORING AVERAGE	72.23
CAREER EARNINGS	R1 923 168

BRANDON STONE

AGE	22
TURNED PRO	2013
PROFESSIONAL WINS	0
SUNSHINE TOUR WINS	0
CHALLENGE TOUR TOP 10s	6
LOWEST ROUND	64
SCORING AVERAGE	71.06
CAREER EARNINGS	R2 886 635

where you think, "Why would anyone want to play there?" Then you get there and it is the most unbelievable golf course you've ever seen.

BS: Slovakia last year was just incredible. But it was in the middle of nowhere – we drove an hour on the bus to get there, went through these pearly gates and there was a course as good as Augusta National.

KS: They were the best greens I had ever seen anywhere. I said to Brandon, "This is paradise, china."

BS: Last year my dad and my brother came through to Germany and Slovakia for two weeks. After the German event we ended up driving through to Munich to watch the World Cup final. Little memories like that make the tough weeks on tour a bit easier.

CG: It must be great having a dad who has been there and done it before.

BS: I've always said that you're never really going to trust someone on the bag who hasn't been on the 18th fairway, needing to make birdie to win a golf tournament – or even make the cut.

For me to have my dad on the bag – someone who has won so many times and has been schooling me on the golf course since I was 10 years old – I value his opinion so much more than a normal caddie.

CG: Growing up and seeing your dad playing on tour, was it obvious that was what you wanted to do?

BS: It was kind of the complete opposite. Everyone thinks that the moment I popped out of the womb he put a golf club in my hands and said, "There you go, this is what you're going to do for the rest of your life."

My dad has never pushed us or told us to go and practise. The only one who ever might have done that is my mother!

KS: I've never told anyone to go and practise. But you don't get better without practising and if you want to go out and shoot 75, that's okay. I'm not the one who has to sign the scorecard at the end of the day. If you walk onto the 1st tee and you know you have worked hard, then you are confident and you feel good about yourself. But if you're thinking, "Maybe I shouldn't have gone to watch that movie last week," then you're in trouble. >

SUNSHINE TOUR INTERVIEW

■ Kevin & Brandon Stone

CG: As a parent, were you careful not to push too hard and take the love out of the game?

KS: Absolutely. Brandon wanted to stop playing cricket at school, but I wouldn't let him because I felt he had to play team sports until he was 16. I see a lot of parents nowadays standing on the range and pushing their 10-year-old and I think that by the time he is 16, he's going to hate the game.

BS: Everyone is under the illusion that at 10 years old you need to be practising six hours a day of golf, but your body hasn't fully developed until you are 17 or 18. So your swing is changing without you doing anything until you are 18 years old. Yes there are the exceptions like Jordan Spieth and Matteo Manassero who were good very young, but those guys will have their struggle points like Matteo is having this year.

Even Spieth was playing basketball and football until his senior year in high school. Even when we were playing college golf together, we'd still go and play tennis, throw a football or play volleyball together. He's not just a golfer, he's an athlete – and that is where golf is going nowadays.

CG: Brandon, you had a sensational college career – winning just about everything. I suspect the transition to the paid ranks has been a bit tougher than expected?

BS: The paid ranks wasn't really the problem, it was just the travel. When I was a junior golfer in South Africa, I would travel with my dad or with my friends and when I was at college I would travel with the team and the coaches. So you would always have a support structure. I went from that to just me, in a country where people don't speak English, the weather is terrible, the golf courses are different, you can't watch TV or speak to anybody and the food is different.

One of the things I'm struggling the most with is the food on tour. Because of my blood type, I need a lot of red meat and protein but you can't afford it in Europe. By week four on the road I'm feeling drained because I haven't fed my body what it needs.

We always joke that when I come home, the braai is already going before I even land.

KS: People don't realise that the Americans never leave America. They come out of college, turn pro, play the Web.com Tour and then onto the main tour. The Texans think that Florida is on the other side of the world. Whereas the South Africans, if we want to get anywhere, we've got to go to Europe, to Asia, the States – you've got to travel. And when you go to Europe there are a dozen different cultures – a different one every week.

CG: What are the plans – see out the season on the Challenge Tour and see if you get into Europe that way?

BS: Fortunately I've had a very good start on the Challenge Tour, so I'm about 25 percent on my way to getting my European Tour card for next season. There are a lot of big tournaments to come and it's just a matter of biting the bullet and planning my schedule to play courses that I've played before.

The Challenge Tour is so difficult because you can finish 15th every week and still miss your card by €50 000. Last week in Turkey the guys who finished 10th made €2 000 and the guy who made the cut but finished last got €500.

So you get to the point where you are sitting 40th going into the last round and you make a few pars and you just know you can't make any money this week.

You need to finish in the top five to break even.

CG: Are you having fun? So many ammies would swap it all for the touring pro life.

BS: Yes I am, although anyone who says life on tour is luxurious obviously hasn't done it before.

I think last year was a bit difficult because I was working on my game a lot. There were a lot of things I was struggling with based on the style of golf you need to play in Europe as opposed to the style of golf you play in America or here in South Africa. They are not even remotely similar. So I've tried to add more variety to my game – the idea of

hitting a high, floating 7-iron in Europe just does not exist.

It was an eye-opener because I realised my game wasn't where it needed to be to compete in Europe. I knew it wasn't going to happen overnight.

KS: I said to him that he needs to hang in there for three to five years. It's like any job – you've got to do your apprenticeship. You've got to go over there and learn to play on different golf courses, in different conditions. You need to work out what equipment works best for you.

You need to be patient because you're expecting to go out there and shoot 65 every time. Often you will walk off the course having played great and you've shot 73.

CG: Do you have any plans to come back to the Sunshine Tour?

BS: I would really love to, but with the Challenge Tour schedule being the way it is, it doesn't allow me to. Europe right now is my priority because it is where I have to be to get into the top 15 and get my European Tour card.

All of the tournaments are so closely stacked together in the middle of the year that the only tournaments I can really play are the co-sanctioned ones at the end of the year.

I would love to go to places like the Wild Coast to play because I've grown up watching my dad play in them but unfortunately, the way that my schedule works, I play five weeks of tournaments and then I have to come back home and rest.

KS: I think once you get onto the European Tour it changes. Then you can come back and play in the smaller tournaments. That was the mess we had last year – he was trying to play the European Tour, the Challenge Tour and the Sunshine Tour. So this year it is about focusing on the Challenge Tour.

CG: Back at college, you played alongside a rather handy golfer in Jordan Spieth – and from what I heard, outperformed him?

BS: Everyone knows how good he is on the golf course, but the fact of the matter is that



EVENT	KEVIN	BRANDON
2015 JOBURG OPEN	MC	MC
2015 DIMENSION DATA PRO-AM	T65	T33
2014 CAPE TOWN OPEN	T68	T35
2014 BMG CLASSIC	MC	MC

you realise that it's a very different game to when you started, don't you?

KS: I can tell you one thing that if you have the talent and determination today, you can beat anyone, because of the technology available. Ninety percent of the kids today don't have the first clue what it's like to be a professional.

It's a job. You wake up early and get to the gym at 6.30am for a two-hour gym session, then have breakfast and go hit balls on the range.

If you think 100 balls a day is going to make you champion, get another job, pal. The trophies are all in the dirt; you have to earn them.

CG: Brandon could theoretically make in one tournament close to what you made in your career.

BS: That was how it was in my first event [tie-10th in the 2013 BMW International]. My first cheque was worth more than his biggest cheque by far. That's the level that sport has got to.

KS: I remember my first win, I beat Wilhelm Winsnes in a playoff. I got a cheque for R1 400 and went and bought an engagement ring with it. We used to travel everywhere by car and travel together like a big community.

CG: When Brandon was growing up and learning the game, how difficult was it to separate the father role from the golf coach?

BS: We had a rule growing up that we never spoke about golf at the house – we still don't. I don't even watch golf. I play golf for 40 weeks a year, so I don't want to spend the other 12 watching golf or I will be saturated. When I come home I switch off – I barely even use my cellphone.

CG: Best of luck to you both – this year and next – and we hope to see you lifting some trophies in Europe soon. **CG**

he is an amazing person. I expected him to be an arrogant American but he's extremely humble, a great guy and even now he's available for a chat.

CG: Did you expect Jordan to go on and achieve what he has?

BS: Yes I did. There's a different aura around him. He won two US Juniors – the only person other than Tiger Woods to do that. He just has something about him – confidence that he knows how good he is.

I don't want to take anything away from him, but people forget that his first five tournaments were all in Texas and all on courses that he has played before. It's like me turning professional and my first five tournaments are at Centurion, Irene, Copperleaf, Pretoria Country Club and Glendower and they are going to be worth \$10 million each.

CG: Kevin, you're eligible for the senior ranks next year – will you be giving it a full crack?

KS: Definitely. That's why I've started playing again. I turn 50 next year but I've got a lot of work to do still. I'm trying a new counterbalanced putter and for the first time in 10 years it feels comfortable. I'm still hitting the ball far – I hit it as far as the kids do – I just need to get fit and strong. I also carry

my bag, so five days a week playing and carrying my bag is good exercise and I'm fit.

I also hit a lot of balls. When I'm down on the coast [Mount Edgecombe in KwaZulu-Natal] I probably hit 500 balls a day, but then the short game falls behind because the grass is so different. I'm looking forward to it. I'd like to go and play in America, because American golf suits my game a lot more than European golf. I tend to carry the ball a long way – I don't run it up to the hole. It's hard to get in there, I know.

CG: Obviously you've been playing on the tour for 25 or so years, but you've also made a successful career as a teaching professional and golf director. How have you managed to juggle both?

KS: It wasn't easy. I stopped playing when Brandon was about five and I started working at Centurion Country Club. I would play in the odd tournament just to get an Order of Merit ranking.

When he went off to college we had a deal that I would start playing again – because I didn't have to look after him and cart him off to tournaments. I'm still good enough to shoot in the 60s, so I thought, "Why not?"

CG: When you get such a close view of the likes of Brandon coming through,

SCIENCE, ART AND TRADITION

What is it, exactly, that constitutes good golf course design? After all, differentiating between holes that are good, bad or indifferent has long been debated in 19th holes around the world. **JOHN BOTHA** looks at the history of course design and speaks to some of South Africa's golf course architects about the fundamentals of their art.

Golf is the only sport where the playing field does not follow prescribed boundaries and measurements, and part of the game's appeal is that we find an interesting diversity of golf courses that are not only radically different in design, but in topography and types of playing surfaces that require different skills too. Although there are loosely agreed parameters that define par, and a system that has evolved which dictates the number of holes, it is the differing eco-zones, climates, surroundings and skill and creativity of the designers that make golf courses so different, and each a unique adventure.

It is said that architecture of any sort is the only discipline

that combines the arts and the sciences, and great golf course design also involves an appreciation of tradition. Even the most imaginative and creative designs have some connection with the past, and few architects would deny being influenced by great work that was done decades, or even a century, ago.

We could divide golf course architecture into four distinct periods – the first being where natural land forms were utilised to lay out a course with minimal construction work, a period prior to 1899 when the likes of Old Tom Morris didn't have the ability to move much earth. During this time a 'golf architect' (the term wasn't in use yet, and normally the local professional would be elevated

to 'designer') would spend no more than a couple of days simply identifying best points from which to play to certain obvious targets, and marking a basic route with flags.

Next came the so-called 'golden age of design', a period between the dawn of the 20th century and the Great Depression. More, but not excessive amounts of, earth was being moved, and after creating golf courses in heathland areas (mostly near London as the game's popularity grew in areas south of where it originated), this method of design was then exported to the US where the golf boom was in full swing.

Between 1916 and 1930, more than 5 000 golf courses were designed and constructed

in America, and the celebrated British-born architects such as Donald Ross, Alister Mackenzie, Harry Colt and Willie Park Jnr were in great demand. At the same time, superb work was being done by the emerging American architects, the likes of AW Tillinghast, Seth Raynor, George Crump, Stanley Thompson and William Flynn.

The fact that many of these designs have stood the test of time says much about the skill of this generation of designers, and their work, albeit with minor upgrades, is featured among some of the highest-rated layouts today.

The next period was where earth-moving equipment was extensively used to 'sculpt' preconceived designs, and big budgets allowed the construction of courses to become more spectacular and often completely over the top. In many cases, architects (at the urging of course owners or property developers) attempted to create very different designs often at the expense of playability and even common sense. Layouts became longer and more difficult, and while it

It's hard to believe that Fancourt Links was built on the site of an old runway.



PHOTO: JAMIE THOM

TOP AND ABOVE INSET:
The remarkable Ebotse Links – after and before.

would be unfair to say that no great courses were designed and built between World War II and the mid-1980s, this has been termed the 'dark ages of course design' for good reason.

More recently, the trend has been to create courses that at least appear to be natural, even if they were constructed on land that was wholly unsuitable for the purpose. It must be said that architects of a century ago mostly had excellent land with which to work, while modern designers often have to create a course on terrain that leaves a lot to be desired. Perhaps the best example of this in South Africa would be The Links at Fancourt – where an old airport was converted at huge cost to resemble natural sand dunes found on a classic links course. Thankfully, even with the ability to change landscapes completely, the modern architects now strive to be more subtle rather than creating weird and wonderful courses that are visually striking but little else.

Two other good examples of excellent modern design in South Africa would be St Francis Links and Ebotse, the former constructed among natural sand dunes, the latter in an old quarry that was transformed into a great layout that appears to have existed for ages.

Golf course architecture is highly subjective, and the term 'championship course' is often misused and misunderstood. One of the best definitions of a championship course comes from Ross, a brilliant designer, who explained that competitors should be presented with "a variety of problems that will test every type of shot which a golfer of championship ability should be qualified to play".

In listing required abilities to hit long and accurate tee shots, accurate iron approaches (Ross'

designs always put a premium of long-iron play), precise handling of the short game and consistent putting, the celebrated architect made the important point that "these abilities should be called for in a fair proportion that will not permit excellence in any one department of the game to too largely offset deficiencies in another". Ross also maintained that "Penalties must be provided to exact a toll from those who make mistakes and yet these penalties should not be unduly severe nor of a nature that will prohibit a full recovery by the execution of an unusually well played shot".

Where we might have missed the boat in recent times is the fact that while 'championship' golf courses may have their place, only a small proportion of golfers actually enjoy battling with long carries, extremely tight landing areas, a plethora of water hazards and severely undulating greens running at tournament speeds. Oversized, deep bunkers with steep faces may look pretty on postcards and calendars, but few golfers relish having to hit recovery shots from them, and they are a nightmare to maintain. Multiple tees do help with making some of these monsters more playable, and even genuine championship courses can be set up to accommodate less proficient amateurs. The point is that golf has lost ground to other sports. Three reasons for this are that golf takes a fair amount of time to play, and it is expensive and difficult. Designing courses that are truly worthy of 'championship' status only make the game more difficult, more expensive to maintain and these self-indulgent projects only result in the game taking much longer to play.

One of the most respected golf course architects in the

Natural land forms were utilised to lay out a golf course with minimal construction work.



Old Tom Morris

1899



Donald Ross

1933

Golden age of design. More than 5 000 golf courses were designed and constructed.



AW Tillinghast

1939

Dark ages of course design. Earth-moving equipment was extensively used to 'sculpt' preconceived designs.

1980

Create courses that are natural in appearance.

2015

Possible manic free-for-all.

current era is Tom Doak, and this often controversial but excellent architect was asked how this period of golf architecture will be treated by posterity.

"Fifty years from now, we'll look back on this period of golf architecture as a manic free-for-all, with some excellent work, some horrible atrocities, and a lot of quality-built high-end projects which never paid off. Hopefully it won't be the last hurrah – 10 years ago, I remember saying that I hoped my career wouldn't consist of trying to fix tour pros' design mistakes," he replied.

No comment on modern golf course design would be complete without alluding to the 'signature' creations of tour players, which are mostly the work of a suitably qualified designer and merely endorsed by the particular player.

The value of having a successful professional putting his or her name to a design is debatable, and this doesn't come cheap. *Compleat Golfer* spoke to some South African-based golf course architects to hear their opinions on what constituted good design, and asked them to name their favourite holes – ones they had created as well as the work of other architects. >

FEATURE

■ Golf courses

ANDREW GOOSEN

– The Morris Golf Co.
“Pleasing all golfers with a design or layout of a single golf hole is challenging. There is such a vast divide between the ability of the golfing population that it is almost impossible to please everyone. In the past 35-odd years the majority of golfers have been brainwashed by the industry regarding the benchmark for a good golf course – based on levels of presentation, but disregarding strategic merits. I am delighted that there has been a positive shift away from this thinking in the last few years.

“A good architect should attempt to set out a hole in a manner that presents its strategy, or defensive characteristics, in a legible manner to the golfer standing on the tee box; there should be a variety of options for getting from the tee to the

green and ultimately into the hole. A well-designed green complex will allow the greenkeeper to place the pin in various locations and in turn directly affect the strategy of the golfer.

“Having played the famous Road Hole on the Old Course at St Andrews on a number of occasions, I believe that it has to be the closest to the perfect golf hole in the world. Every single stroke from virtually every conceivable angle presents the golfer with more than two options – each offering fair rewards for the relative risks.”

SEAN QUINN

– Nicklaus Design. Sean played an important role in the design and final shaping of courses such as St Francis Links and Steyn City.

“The most important design discipline is to create a good routing from the outset.

Rarely is one exposed to a property with 18 potential good holes on it. Good routing will minimise the amount of construction work required to create a fair and balanced course. There are not too many new courses being built these days, but when it comes to renovations, the same is true. On golf courses where there is available land, poor holes can be improved by making routing adjustments. This may entail building new tees, a new green or sometimes even a fairway shift.

“One of my favourite holes in South Africa is the par-five 16th at St Francis Links – not only spectacular with magnificent views of St Francis Bay, but it offers players options. The hole requires a relatively simple tee shot to a wide landing area, but it gets interesting on the second shot. The hole plays predominantly downhill with the prevailing

westerly wind from behind. The landing area for the second shot is split by a natural wash that extends and cuts across the front of the green. Strong players can attack the green with their second shots; a good tee shot makes the second shot relatively simple – the green can be approached from the right or left of the fairway, but the green has a large support dune behind it, and any approach shot needs to be precise.”



PETER MATKOVICH

– one of South Africa's most prolific designers, having completed more than 20 new courses and as many redesigns.

“A number of golf courses have merely become expensive landscaping exercises. Holes should vary, play into the

THE ARCHITECTS' TOP 10

TWO YEARS AGO, THE *GOLF COURSE ARCHITECTURE* PUBLICATION CONDUCTED THE FIRST-EVER SURVEY AMONG 250 COURSE ARCHITECTS FROM 28 COUNTRIES, ASKING THE PROFESSIONAL DESIGNERS TO RATE WHAT THEY CONSIDERED TO BE THE BEST GOLF COURSES IN THE WORLD. THIS IS THEIR TOP 10, WITH THE DESIGNER'S NAME AND THE YEAR THE COURSE WAS CONSTRUCTED:

1

ST ANDREWS (OLD)

The original designer is unknown but Old Tom Morris, who served as greenkeeper from 1865-1903, is generally regarded as having the biggest influence on the 18 holes as they are today.

2

CYPRESS POINT (ALISTER MACKENZIE AND ROBERT HUNTER, 1928)

By far the highest-ranked US course, where MacKenzie broke all the rules – three par fives in the first six holes, back-to-back par threes, and forcing golfers to hit their drives on the opening hole over a main road.

3

PINE VALLEY (GEORGE CRUMP AND HARRY COLT, 1919)

Considered to be one of the finest examples of great routing, a perfect site, and a brilliant design that incorporates variety, strategy, challenge and fun.

4

AUGUSTA NATIONAL (ALISTER MACKENZIE AND BOBBY JONES, 1933)

Even ignoring the perfect conditioning when the course is annually presented for the US Masters, this is considered one of the ultimate challenges of ball-striking and recovery skill.

prevailing winds then with them, up hills then down, long and then short, with greens of varying difficulty, all to test the golfer physically and mentally.

"The worst phrase is 'a course must be fun for everyone'. I believe that we need a variation of holes and multiple tees – have a good balance of holes, wide in certain landing areas, others narrow, risk and reward at different distances for different skill levels. One area you can challenge everyone is in your greens design. Everyone can putt. Hit it in the wrong section and you are seriously tested. You cannot design a golf course for everyone. You're ruined if you try to please everyone. An example of a hole that everyone can enjoy is the 5th hole at Pinnacle Point. The hole has five or six different tees, and variable winds add to the hole. Top players are

given the chance of making eagle; a high handicapper can make par."



GARY PLAYER

– the design group headed by our most famous sporting icon has a portfolio of more than 300 projects in 35 countries.

"I have visited and studied most of all the great courses of the world, and have been fortunate to apply my experience in the design of over 300 golf courses worldwide. We promote a design philosophy based on the combination of modern technology and traditional design principles. In every instance, we seek to design courses that are unique, so that a golfer who finishes playing has had a very positive experience; however, is unable to identify the specific

trademark that is carried through in our designs.

"Golf equipment and machinery are improving all the time, which results in courses designed 30 or more years ago being too short for the longer hitter today. It is obviously not possible to continue to lengthen golf courses; however, a clever and strategic approach to design will give a golf course the kind of elasticity that is required to stand up to the inevitable technological advances that will be incorporated into golf equipment in the future.

"As a course designer, one of my prime concerns is to always create beauty and harmony and a playable golf course, while respecting the developer's objectives."

DOUW VAN DER MERWE

– founder of DDV Design Group. In a career spanning four decades, Douw van der

Merwe, a landscape architect and golf course design specialist, has an impressive list of course designs and revamps to his credit.

"One of my favourite holes is the 2nd at Durban Country Club. This is a beautiful hole – inviting – with a perfectly positioned green. From the tee, this par three doesn't look that daunting. It is at once simple and par seems a reasonable prospect, but a golfer could easily lose his ball.

"What I like are holes that are not over-engineered. One of the best holes we designed is the 14th at Legends, a par four played downhill. My favourite course in South Africa is probably the Gary Player Country Club (although I preferred the 17th hole as it was originally designed), and my favourite course that our company designed is Phakalane outside Gaborone in Botswana." **CG**

5

NATIONAL GOLF LINKS OF AMERICA (CHARLES BLAIR MACDONALD, 1911)

Macdonald created a masterpiece on this exposed stretch of New York real estate, a great test of strategic golf, and he spent a further 30 years refining the layout.

6

ROYAL COUNTY DOWN (GEORGE BAILLIE AND OLD TOM MORRIS, 1889)

Almost visual isolation on every hole, some quirky blind tee shots, but beautiful surroundings. The bunkers with their fringes of dune grasses and heather have been copied many times.

7

SHINNECOCK HILLS (WILLIE DAVIS AND WILLIAM FLYNN, 1894)

Situated on a bluff on Long Island, the course's routing ensures the player has to contend with the ever-present wind from different directions on each hole. The course was expanded and altered by other architectural greats – Charles Blair Macdonald, Willie Dunn and Seth Raynor.

8

PEBBLE BEACH (JACK NEVILLE AND DOUGLAS GRANT, 1919)

The only course on this list to be designed by two amateur golfers. Since opening, many great architects have made changes here, including Alister Mackenzie, Jack Nicklaus and Arnold Palmer.

9

ROYAL DORNOCH (TOM MORRIS AND JOHN SUTHERLAND, 1886)

Best known as the most northerly championship links in Britain, many architects actually rated this classic as their No 1. Would be worthy of being on the Open Championship roster if it wasn't so remote.

10

ROYAL MELBOURNE (WEST) (ALISTER MACKENZIE AND ALEX RUSSELL, 1931)

Both East and West courses here are considered to be masterpieces, and the composite of both is used for the Australian Open and other major events.

Fitting the **FLATSTICK**

**WITH THE BAN ON PUTTER ANCHORING
LOOMING, PUTTER MANUFACTURERS HAVE CREATED
OTHER WAYS TO HELP YOU PUTT MORE CONSISTENTLY,
MAKING IT EVEN MORE IMPORTANT TO GET FITTED
FOR YOUR FLATSTICK.**

Every year we cover the topic of putting and putters in depth. This time it's no different. It's easy to forget that over a third of the strokes made on a golf course are on the green and for some, it is close to half of their average score – showing just how important it is to be a consistent putter of the ball.

Recently, the biggest subject in putting has been the upcoming ban on anchoring the club, which comes into effect on 1 January next year, and as much as it has upset the likes of Tim Clark and Adam Scott, most regular club golfers won't be affected.

However, as a result of the pending rule change, putter brands have begun to produce different ways of improving putter consistency, including counterbalancing and arm-lock technology.

COUNTERBALANCING

This isn't a new concept, but it has become more popular recently. The weight of the putterhead is counterbalanced by adding weight to the grip, which is also usually slightly thicker than normal. This helps to keep your wrists quieter

through the stroke. It can, however, have a negative effect on those who prefer to feel the weight of the putterhead and use it as a guide, therefore requiring more wrist action.

ARM LOCK

This concept might become more popular next year, but is currently only being adopted by a few, most notably Matt Kuchar on the US Tour. The length of the putter grip is longer, which allows you to hold it against your leading forearm, thereby removing any wrist movement altogether. The forward press of the shaft also means the putterhead needs to be offset and has much more loft, which is effectively taken away when the putter is pressed against your forearm.

These newer innovations make it even more important to consult your local PGA professional on what would suit your game best. You should follow it up with a proper custom fitting of a putter, even if it is your trusty old flatstick that you don't want to part with. Having the correct weight and length putter will improve your



ABOVE Jordan Spieth is easily the best putter on tour and the stats prove this.

consistency and have you putting with more confidence.

Take a look at the latest putters on offer. There are a few new surprises in there too.

Products in focus:



PIRETTI REV 2.0
PRICE: R3 900 – R4 300

Piretti

This American handcrafted putter brand has launched new putters this year featuring enhanced milling technology to provide an even better feel and roll than before.

The new Rev 2.0 range features Optimal Roll Control technology that creates a quicker and more effective forward roll after impact. The Rev 2.0 putters also feature less loft and increased weight than previous models to help with speed control and forward roll.

Piretti putters can be ordered by visiting www.pirettifineputters.net and the price includes delivery and a virtual custom fitting.

TaylorMade

The latest putters from TaylorMade bring a new feel to the brand with the introduction of aluminium inserts instead of the softer surlyn material previously used. This 6061 aluminium is still softer than normal and, thanks to the deep milling used on the face, enhances both feel and sound. This has a big effect on how you putt.

Each Ghost Tour putter features a matte black finish to reduce glare at address and is either available with a slim Golf Pride putter grip or a slightly thicker Super Stroke Mid Slim 2.0 grip that adds more stability through keeping the wrists quieter through the stroke. The Ghost Tour comes in four different head shapes: Daytona, Monte Carlo, Indy and Maranello.

We were able to test the Daytona model with a Super Stroke grip and it was impressive, especially when it comes to the feel from the new deep-milled aluminium insert. That feel sits directly in between that of a fully milled solid putterhead and one with a softer insert. This is heard in the higher-pitched click at impact.

The TaylorMade Ghost Tour putters are quite a big change to what the brand has been producing over the past few years, but it adds a new category to the putting range and one that is preferred by many golfers. >



TAYLORMADE GHOST INDY
PRICE: R2 300

TAYLORMADE GHOST MONTE CARLO
PRICE: R2 300

TAYLORMADE GHOST MARANELLO
PRICE: R2 300

TAYLORMADE GHOST DAYTONA
PRICE: R2 300



ARGOLF LE GRAAL
CUSTOM ORDER



ARGOLF URTHER
CUSTOM ORDER

Argolf

A new putter brand has entered the South African market and the models are bound to turn a few heads. Argolf is a French putter company made up of designers who have used experience in aeronautics to create these masterpieces. The materials used in Argolf putters are the same grade metals found on aircraft and each putter is named after a character from the famous King Arthur stories.

The Le Graal putter is the company's flagship model and the clubhead is one solid piece of aircraft-grade titanium milled into shape. It is designed to be stable and the feel is different, but very smooth.

Other models include Arthur, Lancelot, Merlin, Morgane, Pendragon and Uther and each putter ordered is completely custom fitted to perform at its best.

To find out more or to order one of these flatsticks, contact Leon on sales@argolf.co.za or log on to www.argolf.fr.



ARGOLF ARTHUR
CUSTOM ORDER



ARGOLF LANCELOT
CUSTOM ORDER

Cleveland

In carrying on with the success of the Cleveland TFI Smart Square Tour putter, the brand has extended the range to include the TFI Blade and TFI Mallet putters.

TFI (True Feel Innovation) is used in the face of the putter and combines a milled copper-infused face cap over a soft copolymer insert. This creates the same feel and consistency across the entire face. The milled copper face actually floats in the soft insert behind, ensuring the feel is the same all over.

The TFI range also includes the highly successful Dual Axis Alignment system that features two white squares on the top of the clubhead and the parallel lines extend from the centre of the face to frame the ball, while the perpendicular lines help with better alignment at address.



PING

PING has increased the size of the Cadence TR range with the addition of the new Ketsch Mid and Craze-E-R putters.

The Cadence TR range allows for better putter custom fitting through using different weighted inserts in the face of the various PING putter models. The blue insert is a more traditional weight and is typically fitted to players with faster tempos. The black insert is heavier and matches slower tempos to help with more consistency on shorter putts. Both faces feature the True Roll grooves that improve the forward roll of the ball – even on putts not hit in the middle of the face.

The Ketsch Mid is based on the original Ketsch mallet that has been immensely successful on tours around the world, while the Craze-E-R is also taken from a previous design featuring a long line from the face to the back of the clubhead that helps with alignment. >

ODYSSEY WORKS
VERSA 2BALL FANG
PRICE: R3 000



Odyssey

The latest Works range from Odyssey features a new Fusion RX face insert that combines a thin stainless-steel mesh cap over the original White Hot insert. This promotes a quicker forward roll and less skid than previous models.

Also new is the introduction of the Big T alignment system available in the Works range. This dual alignment system at address helps you line up the putter better behind the ball, ensuring you hit your target more often. Big T is available in both Works Versa and normal Works models, featuring a matte black and white colour scheme.

The Odyssey Works range features various models, including the Versa and Tank variations, with the latter featuring a heavier and thicker grip and heavier head for counterbalancing.

ODYSSEY WORKS
VERSA BIG T
PRICE: R2 800



ODYSSEY WORKS
PRICE: R2 800



ODYSSEY WORKS
VERSA TANK
PRICE: R3 000





Nike Golf

This year, Nike Golf has launched three new models of Method putters: Matter, Converge and Converge Counterflex.

The Method Matter is the updated Method putter featuring an RZN groove layer sitting just behind the face of the stainless-steel putterhead. This creates a softer feel at impact with quicker forward roll.

The Method Converge features an additional layer of RZN material in the back of the putter that is said to make the feel even softer at impact and distribute weight more effectively for increased stability.

The Method Converge Counterflex putter uses counterbalancing technology to help you fit the weight and stability to your liking.

Scotty Cameron

This putting brand is seen as the top of the pile by many and with good reason.

The latest Select models feature deep-milled faces and enhanced alignment in the mid mallets, while the weight of each putter can be adjusted through interchangeable weights in the sole.

The new GoLo models feature a stainless-steel frame and a milled lightweight aircraft-grade aluminium sole plate, which increases the stability of the putter.

The Futura X putters feature a high MOI (Moment of Inertia) design that is very stable and almost feels like the putter is moving naturally along the correct path throughout the stroke. The sole plate in the X5 and X5R putters is hollow in order to push more weight to the perimeter and the face for better feel and sound.

All Scotty Cameron ranges are available in Dual Balance, with a thicker and heavier grip and heavier head for counterbalancing. **CG**



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- **Elsabe Hefer** - PGA Top 25 Teacher
- **Francois Viljoen** - PGA AAA Professional & Programme Director
- **Theo Bezuidenhout Consulting** - Sports Psychologist
- **Greg Smith** - Golf Equipment Technology Specialist

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- **Paul Leishman** - Club Management
- **Mike Wallington** - Greenkeeping

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STRIKE IT PURE

Successful putting relies heavily on a pure strike. **GRANT HEPBURN** has three visualisation tips that will help you become a more solid putter.

The quality of your strike is everything in putting. Within an instant of hitting the ball, you will instinctively know whether or not you've struck it well – and if it is on the correct line. It's a fact that good putters strike the ball much more sweetly than poor putters. That's because they get the ball rolling and hugging the green quicker than poor putters, who have inconsistent strikes and tend to get the occasional little bobble off the face.

These three visual tips should help you get a better understanding of the importance of striking the ball cleanly with the putter and how to improve your consistency. >

1. Hit the equator

Many players believe that, to get the ball rolling, they should hit up on the ball. This is untrue. Although it may not look like it, all putters have loft built into them, somewhere around four degrees. This loft helps to get the ball slightly airborne and start the putt running smoothly along the top of the grass.

If you hit up on the ball, it often causes the ball to jump into the air and then slide before it starts rolling. That causes inconsistency in distance

control as well as accuracy.

One also shouldn't hit down on the ball, as that will cause the ball to squirt forward – again without any type of consistent result.

The ideal strike should see the middle of the clubface meeting the equator of the ball. In order for this to happen, the putter should be travelling pretty much level with the ground through the impact area.

This concept will help many people to improve their putting.



ED'S TOP TIP

Before making the stroke, focus on the back of the golf ball – the point where the putter will strike it – for two seconds. This will help block out any distractions and allow you to focus on a good strike.

A



B



C



2. Keep the lower half stable

For this tip I am standing inside a box, but I want you to imagine that my legs are cemented inside a concrete block. You see, there is no weight transfer in the putting stroke so you need to keep your legs still throughout the stroke, with the weight remaining 50/50 on both feet during the entire movement.

This image of a concrete block will encourage the lower half of the body to be completely inactive in the putting stroke and that will lead to more control and precision.

Once you've stabilised your legs, it is a lot easier to keep the putter on line and to accelerate through the ball – two vital components when it comes to consistent putting.

3. The arm lock drill

In his putting drills on page 40, Derek James speaks of hitting putts with just the right hand. This is a great drill for improving the consistency of your strikes, and if you've got a bit of time on the practice green, I'd like to take the drill a little further.

The best way to putt one-handed is to grab the back of the wrist with one hand and putt with the other.

The advantage of this is that it forces the shoulders to work in the stroke and at the same time one gets the advantage of learning the feel with one hand only.

You should try this with both hands, as shown in the pictures. When the left hand is putting, the focus should be on putting with a firm left wrist. The one-handed stroke will encourage this.

With the right-hand putting stroke, the focus is on feeling like the palm of the right hand faces that target through the impact area.

For this drill, don't focus too much on the result – it's not about whether you sink putts, but about the feeling of making a good stroke and a great strike. **CG**

LEFT ARM LOCK DRILL



RIGHT ARM LOCK DRILL



MEET THE PRO GRANT HEPBURN

■ Grant Hepburn is the CEO of Golf RSA and managing director of the South African Golf Development Board. He is the manager and coach of the SA National Golf Squad, owner of the SA Golf Institute at the River Club in Cape Town and a member of the PGA of South Africa.

View his website, www.granthepburn.com, and follow him on Twitter @granthepburn.

For more information, phone 021 300 0140, or visit www.sagolfinstitute.com.



REMOVING THE LOW SIDE

Putts turning away from you always tend to be the hardest to make, but **Paul Marks** has a simple tip to stop you missing on the low side.

find that many players miss putts, especially left to right putts, on the low side. This is because they line up and let the putterhead move towards the hole and not towards the intended line of putt.

Take the putt in the image as an example: the correct place to aim is the left edge. I like to practise with a tall tee stuck next to the cup on the left edge. Set up about eight feet away and work on keeping your head still throughout the putt and let the putterhead work towards the tee and not towards the hole. Letting the putter finish towards the hole means you have allowed the face to open and the ball will likely miss on the low side.

PRACTISE WITH A TALL TEE STUCK NEXT TO THE CUP ON THE LEFT EDGE

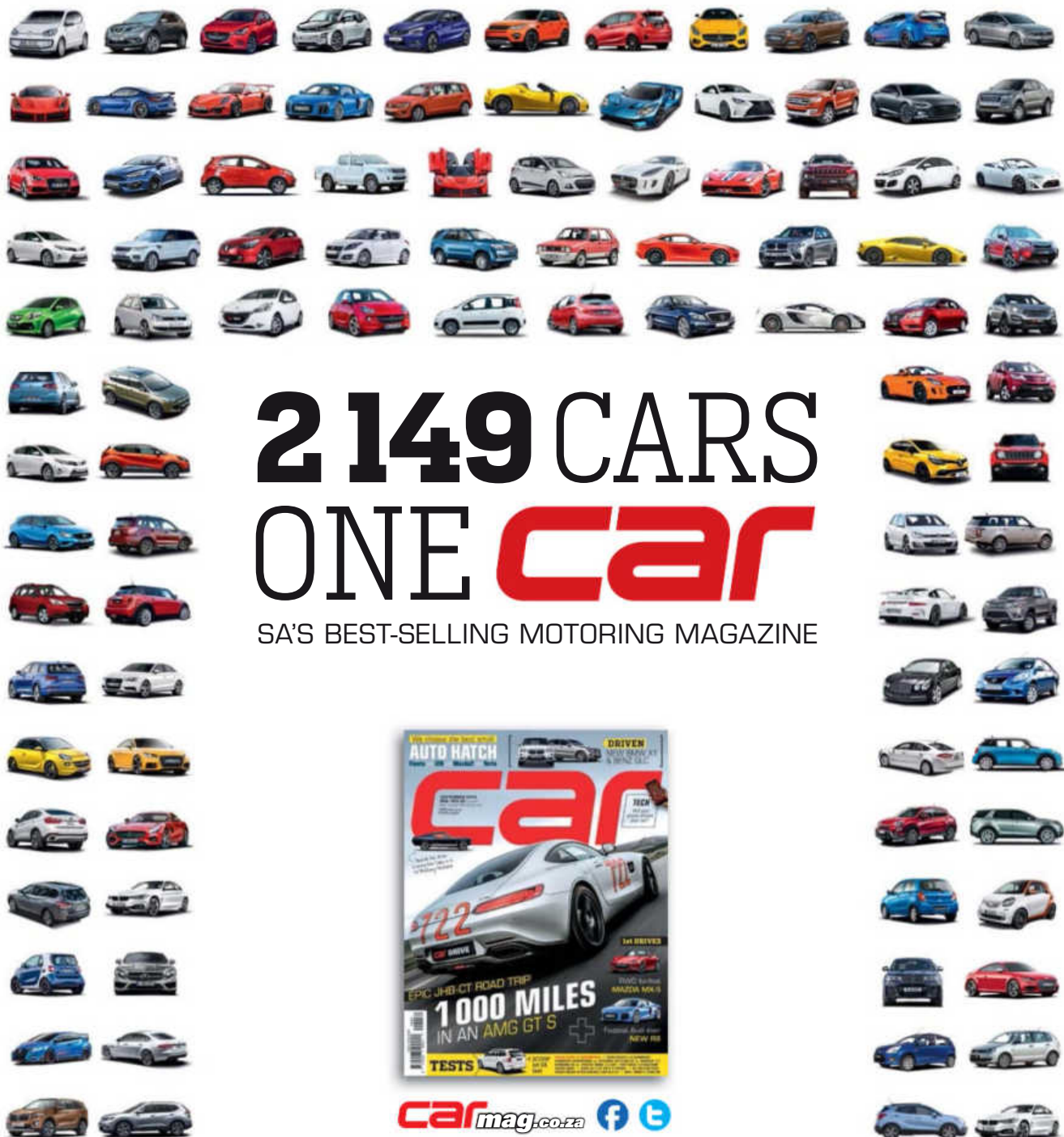
Using a tee next to the hole during practice gives your subconscious mind a target. It shows the line clearly and helps you aim properly. On the course, pick a target on the green, whether it is an old pitchmark or a small stone, and make sure your putterhead moves towards that target and not the cup. You will find yourself sinking a lot more putts. **CG**



PAUL MARKS


■ Paul Marks is the chairman of the PGA of South Africa and the director of golf at Woodhill Country Club. He was voted as the Club Professional of the Year in 2005 and won the 2006 Club Pro Order of Merit.



To book a lesson or club fitting with Paul, contact 012 998 0021.



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DISTANCE CONTROL

Good putters don't just sink a lot of putts, reckons **TANDI VON RUBEN**, they also eliminate three-putts and take pressure off short-range putting by getting the ball close to the hole from long range.



TANDI VON RUBEN

■ Tandi von Ruben is a Ladies European Tour pro who also teaches out of the Martin Whitcher Golf Schools at Randpark GC.

Contact her on 072 650 5113.

I have a simple yet effective drill to help you with your long-range lag putting.

The drill is based on a flat putting surface, rolling at an average speed of about 10 on the stimpmeter (average for most courses). You need to maintain as consistent a rhythm and tempo as possible while doing this to get consistent results. Note that a putting stroke should be a pendular motion (meaning equal back and through, there should never be a 'hit'). Here's how the drill works:

Set up a putting station with a tee as the centre point (this is where your ball goes and marks the middle of your stroke). Then, in a straight line, place tees marking about 30cm on either side of the centre tee so that you have five pegs, including the centre point, all about 30cm apart. Now you need to add a second set of markers (I have used golf balls in the picture to clearly show the difference) halfway between

each tee, except for the first set.

Once you've done that, get a few balls ready as you will need to hit a few putts from each point to get a grouping. This grouping is what you want to work on until your balls are gathering reasonably close to each other – meaning that you are rolling the ball consistently to a single point.

Now comes the mathematical part: if you take your putter 30cm back (ie first tee marker back) and 30cm through (first tee marker beyond the centre point), the ball will roll three metres, provided that your stroke is smooth.

If you now add 30cm overall, meaning you go 45cm back (first ball marker) and 45cm through (first ball on the other side), the golf ball will roll six metres. Similarly, if you take the putter 60cm back and 60cm through (second tee marker back and through) the ball will roll approximately nine metres. For every foot you add, adding half and half to each side of the

centre point, the ball will roll an additional three metres.

This may seem rigid at first, but once you get into a groove and feel the putter moving in a pendular motion back and through to the different points, you will start to see a consistent set of groupings appear. Once you have practised the drill a few times, try a few long-range putts 'feeling' the pendulum. Remember to watch the ball at all times and not watch your putterhead moving back and through – putting is all about feel. **CG**



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EXTENDING SUCCESS

In order to consistently strike the ball in the middle of the clubface, a golfer has to keep the same spine angle from the address position, through the backswing and downswing to promote consistent ball-striking, reckons **GARTH MILNE**.

Studies have shown that around 70 percent of elite amateur golfers lose their spine angle by shoving their hips forward, towards the ball. This swing fault is termed an 'early extension'.

It is no coincidence that only five percent of players on the US Tour have this swing characteristic.

In a previous article we discussed posture and how important it is to maintain your spine angle by adopting the universal athletic posture. Your ability to maintain this posture is governed by your core. Many of you would have heard this term through Pilates or yoga, but the core is a common name for the abdominal region of the body.

If you go to the 'ab area' in any commercial gym, you will see people doing crunches and sit-ups, or flexing their torsos. However, the primary role of the abdominal

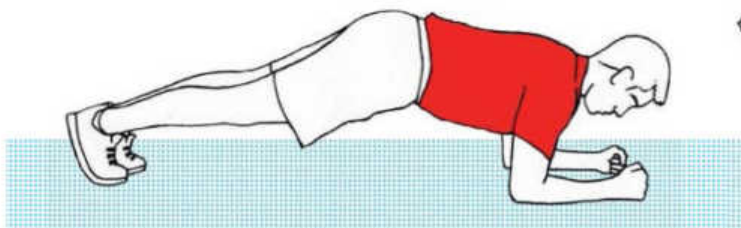
musculature is stabilisation, or resisting extension of the torso. So strengthening the abs with crunches by flexing the spine makes no sense.

To improve the function of the core, you need to perform exercises that force you to extend your spine, specifically the lumbar spine or lower back. You will train your core by not going into extension. This is a great way to improve your ability to maintain your spine angle and overcome an early extension swing fault.

Here are a number of exercises that will help you improve the function of your core. It is important that you engage your core when doing these exercises. You do this by drawing your navel in towards your spine and then engaging your pelvic floor. To do this you must feel like you are holding in a wee (now most guys don't know how to do this, so chaps, pull your testicles up into your body!).

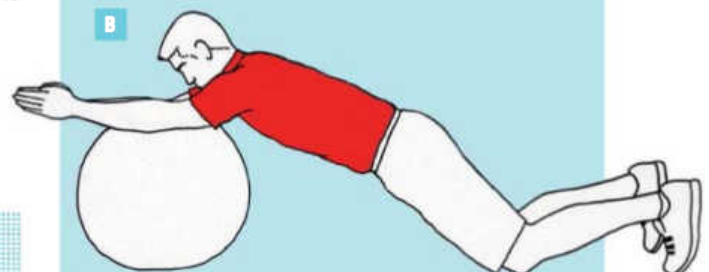
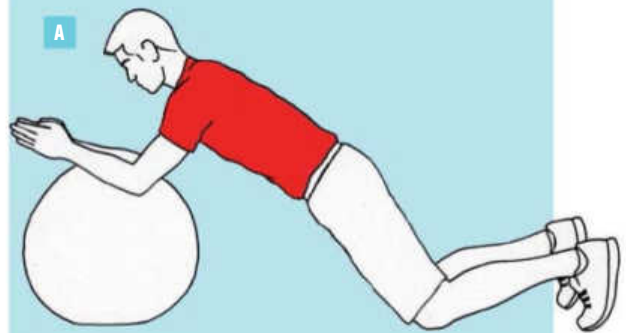
1 PLANK

Start by lying face down on a mat with your elbows tucked in and your forearms parallel. Now rise up onto your knees and lift your torso until your hips are the same height as your shoulders. Engage your core and keep your back straight. Now straighten your knees and come up onto your toes. Do not sag in your lower back, even if it means that your hips are slightly above your shoulders as I have here. Hold this position for 15-20 seconds. Repeat three times.



2 FORWARD BALL ROLL

Start on your knees, sitting with your butt on your heels and your hands on the apex of the ball. Engage your core to keep your torso stable. Now roll forward by rolling the ball onto your elbows and pushing your hips forward beyond your knees. You will feel the abdominals working to resist your lower back sagging (notice my flat lower back). Now pull yourself back to the start position by flexing the hips and shoulders. Try to open and close the shoulder and hip joints at the same speed, rolling forward for three seconds, holding the end range for three seconds and then taking three seconds to return to the start. Complete 10-15 reps, with good form at all times.



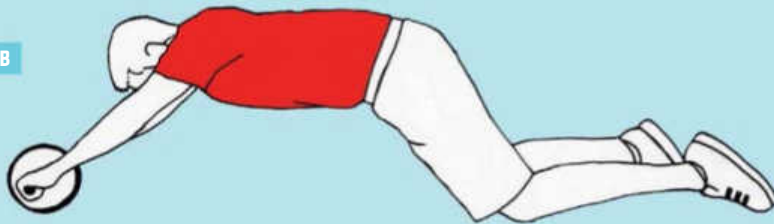
A



3 EVIL WHEEL

This is a progression from the forward ball roll and is one of my favourite core exercises. Be sure to keep your back in neutral at all times, even if it means shortening the movement. I instruct my clients to tuck their tail into a posterior pelvic tilt to ensure they do not go into extension. Complete as many reps as you can with good form.

B



MEET THE INSTRUCTOR GARTH MILNE

■ A golf fitness specialist who trains a number of professionals on the world's pro tours as well as amateur players coming through the local ranks. He dedicates a lot of time to junior academies across South Africa, but is primarily based at the Serengeti Golf Academy, where he and PGA pro Doug Wood run their Wanna Be A Champion programme. Garth also lectures, and he assesses the sport science module for the PGA of SA's accreditation programme.

For more information, visit www.wannabeachampion.com, email garth@wannabeachampion.com, or follow him on Twitter @SmileyMilne.

ED'S TOP TIP

Strength helps in hitting the ball far, but flexibility plays a bigger role in generating clubhead speed.

4

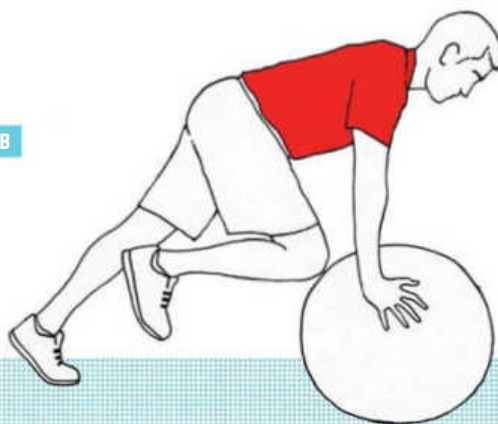
MOUNTAIN CLIMBER

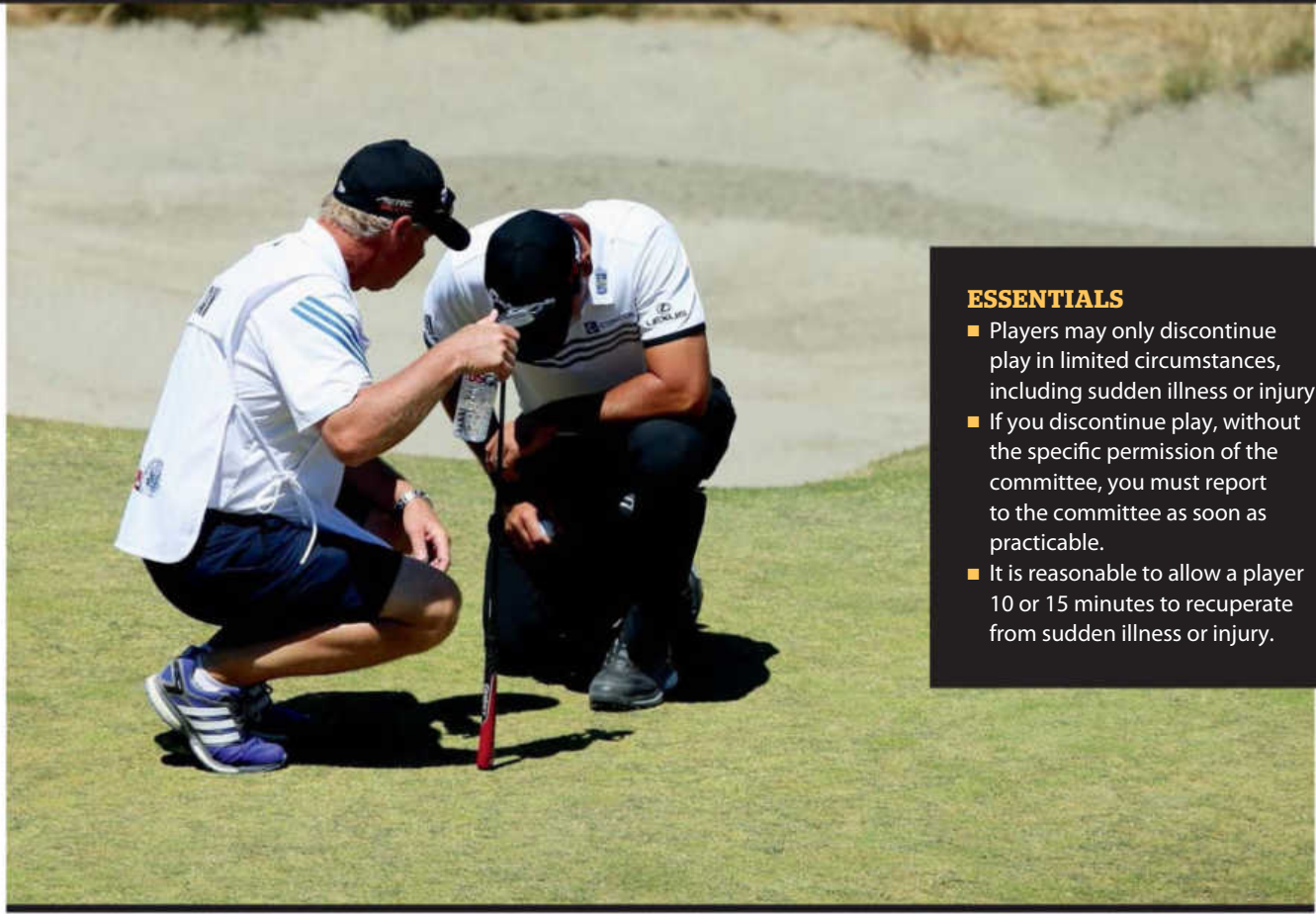
Start in a push-up position on the ball. Pull your shoulders back and down into their sockets. Then bring one knee up towards your chest. Be sure your lower back is in neutral. Don't drop the side of the raised leg. Think anti-rotation as well as anti-extension here. Perform 10-20 reps alternating legs as you go. This is a great core and shoulder workout. **CG**

A



B





ESSENTIALS

- Players may only discontinue play in limited circumstances, including sudden illness or injury.
- If you discontinue play, without the specific permission of the committee, you must report to the committee as soon as practicable.
- It is reasonable to allow a player 10 or 15 minutes to recuperate from sudden illness or injury.

INJURY AND ILLNESS

Vertigo got the better of Jason Day during the second round of the US Open. The R&A's **KEVIN BARKER** explains how to deal with injury or illness during competitions.

Jason Day collapsed playing the final hole of his second round of the US Open at Chambers Bay. Paramedics treated Day for around 10 minutes before he felt able to finish.

Day received further medical treatment after his round and was later diagnosed with benign positional vertigo – a condition he had been struggling with since 2010. Remarkably, he managed to complete the championship and finished in a tie for ninth place.

Day's case was a rare one but injuries and ailments, such as stings,

bites, sprains, heat exhaustion or being hit by a golf ball are fairly regular occurrences. You must not discontinue play unless (Rule 6-8):

1. The committee has suspended play
2. You believe there is a danger from lightning
3. You are seeking a decision from the committee on a doubtful or disputed point
4. There is some other good reason such as sudden illness.

It's worth noting that bad weather is not, of itself, a good reason for

ABOVE
Jason Day
struggled with
vertigo during
the recent
US Open at
Chambers Bay.

discontinuing play. So if it's cold, wet and unpleasant... too bad, you just have to soldier on.

In the case of a sudden illness or injury, you would incur no penalty if you discontinue play and report what has happened to the committee in charge as soon as practicable and the committee considers the circumstances satisfactory. If the committee does not consider the circumstances satisfactory, you are disqualified.

Where you have to discontinue play due to a physical problem, it is reasonable for the committee to allow you 10 or 15 minutes to recuperate but more time than that is generally inadvisable. Consideration needs to be given to all the other competitors in the field, not just the injured party, and if you are unable to continue after a short break then, unfortunately, you must withdraw. **CG**

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■ Amateur Golf



LEFT Cameron Swanepoel (left) receives his prize from Joseph Phiri.

the last things I look at. I'm looking at how they handle situations they're placed in, whether with their parents or with a bad result on the golf course. I'm looking for how well they stay in their routines, are they emotionally stable in their rounds. Without emotional stability we could have the best swing in the world and the child still wouldn't be a great player."

2 THE PARENT TRAP

"Parents need to be very careful with their kids. If they walk with and support them during their rounds, I'd say the most important thing they need to remember is what they look like when their child misses a putt or hits a bad shot. How they react is vital to their child's performance. I know that a lot of kids, the minute they miss a putt, will look to their parents on the side of the green to see what their reaction is. And if the parent is showing frustration or dissatisfaction, it just increases the pressure on the child."

3 DON'T SPECIALISE TOO SOON

"I try to let the kids follow their natural growth patterns. Some kids might be exceptional when they're 15 and others when they're 18. But I try to let this follow a natural progression. Often you can get burnout as a result of early specialisation. The child looks like he or she is going to be a superstar at the age of 10, but by the age of 17 he's not even playing golf any more because it's no longer fun. After the age of 16 you can let them specialise, but before that, let them play as many sports as they can. Other sports have a great influence on patterns for golf, whether it's turning, balance, hand-eye co-ordination and more."

PLAYOFF MANIA

There was a run of playoffs in the series recently. In the Thomas Aiken Tournament at Wanderers Golf Club, Etienne Janse van Rensburg and Kian Rose tied for the A Division lead with scores of 74, but darkness prevented a playoff.

Then in a turn of good fortune for both, Janse van Rensburg won the George Coetzee Tournament at Pretoria Country Club, so Rose was crowned the winner of the Thomas Aiken event.

HOW TO SHAPE SA'S FUTURE STARS

Having worked with several professionals from both the Sunshine and European tours, as well as a host of this country's top junior golfers, leading South African coach Doug Wood knows that success in this game is about far more than just a good swing.

With 21 tournaments throughout the year on some of the best golf courses in South Africa, the Glacier Junior Series is a hotbed of this country's next generation of golf stars.

It's quite clearly the place where South Africa's future stars are bred.

The Glacier brand declares, 'Think World

Class', and the series certainly does this.

Talent is everywhere, and according to Wood, it has to be managed carefully.

1 ATTITUDE WINS, NOT GREAT SWINGS

"You'll often find in junior golf that it's not necessarily the kids with the best swings that win, but rather the kids with the best attitude. As a coach, the swing is one of

A few weeks later, the juniors played through some of the toughest conditions ever seen on the Glacier Junior Series as they battled the wind and rain in the Jean Hugo Tournament at Stellenbosch Golf Club.

The tournament was reduced to nine holes, and Strand's Deon Germishuys and South African Golf Development Board player Clint Jansen were tied for the A Division lead with scores of 39.

Playing the par-three 9th as the playoff hole, Germishuys took the title and a place in the National Final when he holed a 25-foot birdie putt on the third playoff hole.

At Fancourt, Oubaai Golf Club's Caylum Boon beat a strong field, including top South African amateur Jovan Rebula, to win the Branden Grace Tournament at the Montagu course with a round of 69.

And then at Glendower Golf Club, Roodepoort golfer Cameron Swanepoel celebrated his first season in the A Division of the Glacier Junior Series with a victory in The Els Family Tournament on a score of 73. **CG**

For more information on the Glacier Junior Series, visit www.glacierjuniorseries.co.za.



ABOVE Deon Germishuys won the weather-affected event at Stellenbosch Golf Club.

RESULTS



THOMAS AIKEN TOURNAMENT

A DIVISION (HANDICAPS 1-6)

1 Kian Rose and Etienne Janse van Rensburg	
tied on a score of	74
3 Tristan Kyle Maharaj (won count-out)	75
Best Nett: Jared Botha	69

B DIVISION (HANDICAPS 7-18)

1 CJ van Wyk	80
2 Luka Stanisavljevic	81
3 Damian Osner (won count-out)	84
Best Nett: Alexis Gomes	72

C DIVISION (HANDICAPS 19-36)

1 Matthew Render	37 points
2 Tebogo Lefifi	36 points
3 Palesa Rafutho	34 points

GEORGE COETZEE TOURNAMENT

A DIVISION (HANDICAPS 1-6)

1 Etienne Janse van Rensburg	70
2 Dylan Kok	71
3 Estiaan Conradie (won count-out)	72
Best Nett: Martin Vorster	71

B DIVISION (HANDICAPS 7-18)

1 CJ van Wyk	84
2 Simeon Lombard	85
3 Simon du Plooy (won count-out)	90
Best Nett: Michael Ferreira	76

C DIVISION (HANDICAPS 19-36)

1 Emmerick Lombard	43 points
2 Vian Jansen van Vuuren	39 points
3 Matthew Render	36 points

JEAN HUGO TOURNAMENT

A DIVISION (HANDICAPS 1-6)

1 Deon Germishuys	
(won on third playoff hole)	39
2 Clint Jansen	39
3 Chris Botha (won count-out)	41
Best Nett: Francois Cilliers	37

B DIVISION (HANDICAPS 7-18)

1 Schalk Botha	38
2 Adriaan de Waal (won count-out)	42
3 Emile Kruger	42
Best Nett: Tian Smit	30

C DIVISION (HANDICAPS 19-36)

1 Arno Botha	20 points
2 Megan Streicher	18 points
3 Petroné Rudolph	15 points



ABOVE Tebogo Lefifi, who finished second in the C Division of the Thomas Aiken Tournament at Wanderers Golf Club, is congratulated by Helena Ferreira, brand specialist marketing for Glacier by Sanlam.

BRANDEN GRACE TOURNAMENT

A DIVISION (HANDICAPS 1-6)

1 Caylum Boon	69
2 Hans-Jurie Human	71
3 Julien Sale (won count-out)	72

B DIVISION (HANDICAPS 7-18)

1 Grant Chapman	78
2 CJ van Wyk	79
3 James Murray (won count-out)	81

C DIVISION (HANDICAPS 19-36)

1 Zinedine de Nil	34 points
2 Christiaan Maritz (won count-out)	31 points
3 Wafiq Philander	31 points

THE ELS FAMILY TOURNAMENT

A DIVISION (HANDICAPS 1-6)

1 Cameron Swanepoel	73
2 Dino Capazario (won count-out)	74
3 Tristan Ewan Brice	74
Best Nett: Wayne Walker	72

B DIVISION (HANDICAPS 7-18)

1 Marco Massiceti	76
2 Chrisjan Maas	78
3 Kayle Wykes	81
Best Nett: Nkenyazi Zondi	71

C DIVISION (HANDICAPS 19-36)

1 William Daniel Dutton	35 points
2 Devon House (won count-out)	34 points
3 Tshifumulo Ndou	34 points

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A GEM IN PLATINUM COUNTRY

Rustenburg Golf Club is a social hub of this town in the North West Province, and when it comes to classic parkland layouts, its course is one of the most underrated in the country, writes **JOHN BOTHA**.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JAMIE THOM

The par-four 12th hole measures around 350 metres and features a sloop running diagonally across the fairway about 100 metres short of the green.



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COTM

Rustenburg Golf Club

The town of Rustenburg has a long and interesting history, founded in 1851 by the earliest white settlers long before the shantytown that was to become Johannesburg sprung up when the rich gold deposits on the Witwatersrand were discovered.

Setswana-speaking tribes had occupied this area in the foothills of the Magaliesberg Mountains for centuries prior to this, having colonised the Khoikhoi people. Before the Boers arrived, the marauding Matabele impis had conquered the local Tswana tribes, and because the Boers had fought fierce battles against the Zulu and their offshoot Matabele, they and the Tswana people had a common enemy, and formed an alliance to defeat the invaders.

With an excellent climate and no shortage of water, the prospects for farming were good, and getting on well with their neighbours, the Boers called their town 'Rustenburg' or 'town of rest'. The town would become an important agricultural centre with vast citrus estates, with other crops including tobacco, sunflowers and maize thriving, as well as establishing itself as a successful cattle-breeding area.

A major development in the town's fortunes was when the famous geologist Hans Merensky discovered a reef yielding large quantities of platinum, and the mining of the precious metal began in 1929. What had been a sleepy country dorp grew at a frenetic pace, and Rustenburg was, for a brief time, the fastest-growing town in South Africa.

Even before the mining boom began, around 1925, six holes were laid out for the locals to play golf, although the course was a somewhat primitive affair. The earliest records of the club tell us that herds of cattle were allowed onto the course to

graze, and where the clubhouse then stood, local residents were allowed to fetch water from the borehole, at the time the only water source in the area.

It was during the post-World War II golf boom in 1950, when many golf courses were being built, that the town's course was extended to a full nine holes, and the clubhouse was moved. A further three holes were added 10 years later, a gift from the United Tobacco Corporation, and in the early '70s the 18-hole layout was completed. Rustenburg could then not only boast a 'proper' 18-hole course, but one that was made up of some superb holes. It was Frank Keeny, a member of the club and knowledgeable golfer, who can claim to have designed the layout, and what an excellent job he did.

A man who has played an important role at the club for more than 40 years is Sam Stone, father of professional Kevin and grandfather of Brandon. Stone Senior first served as club captain in 1978 and has completed a few stints as head of the committee since. He was also elected as the club's president, and during one period, even took over as the club's manager.

"I have been just about everything at the club except the lady captain," he says. He has seen the club expand to the point where it had around a thousand members, although this has since been reduced to 700, mainly because of the volatile platinum price, and the well-publicised labour unrest on the mines. The club's membership, and indeed the town of Rustenburg, depends very much on the well-being of the mining industry, which has endured some tough times over the past few years. But despite its ups and downs, which included a burst dam that supplies the course with water flooding the course, and issues with the new bent greens (constructed three years ago), the Rustenburgers

are made of stern stuff, and the course has bounced back from these setbacks, while the enthusiasm of the club members remains high.

The first-time visitor will immediately be struck by the magnificent mature trees that frame the holes, trees that thrive in the subtropical climate. Although the rough is kept at a manageable length, the trees – and the water features – ensure that any attempt to overpower the course is likely to be foiled.

Fortunately when Top Turf constructed the new greens, the temptation to create modern, roller-coaster type surfaces was resisted, and the subtle breaks on the putting surfaces are not always obvious. This course is quite simply a very playable, yet interesting challenge that few players will be able to master – unless they appreciate that it requires canny strategy rather than brute force to score well here.

"This is very much a thinking golfer's layout," says Sam Stone, who points out that his club has produced a number of excellent players, including Valerie Holland and Coen Dreyer. He modestly points out that his son Kevin, who was awarded full provincial colours at the age of 16, wasn't too shabby a player either, and of course his grandson (who began playing his golf at this club) earned the distinction of being not only the No 1-ranked amateur in South Africa, but was also the highest-ranked player on the US college circuit before turning professional.

One of the honorary members here is former SA Open champion James Kingston, and with the club's state-of-the-art academy run by Henry Kruger, it will not be surprising to see more top golfers produced here.

At Rustenburg there is that wonderful feel unique to traditional golf clubs and the large, functional



Join a club that's in
a different class.



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The best or nothing.



1 An aerial shot of the par-four 12th shows the water hazard running across the fairway and another larger dam protecting the right edge of the green. **2** The par-five 6th hole measures 520 metres and is reachable in two for the long hitters, providing they avoid the water hazard. **3** Avoiding the two water hazards is of utmost importance if you wish to navigate the par-three 7th hole successfully.

FACT FILE

GETTING THERE: From Johannesburg or Pretoria, proceed on the N4 (Platinum Highway) until the third Rustenburg off-ramp. At the T-junction turn right, travel for one kilometre until another T-junction, turn right into Watsonia Road. Two kilometres later turn into Bethlehem Street. The club entrance is on the left.

OPENED: 1925. The 18-hole layout was completed in 1970.

COURSE: Par 72, classic parkland, 6 281 metres. Designed by Frank Keeney

CLUB MANAGER: Jenny Zimmerman

CLUB CAPTAIN: Gary Church

DIRECTOR OF GOLF: Cedric Brummer

TEACHING PRO: Henry Kruger

GREENFEES: R230 (affiliated rate)

CONTACT: Tel - 014 597 1814

WEBSITE: www.rtbgolfclub.co.za

LIKES:

- The layout - an ageless classic that requires strategy and shot-making where the magnificent trees are the most obvious hazards.
- Value for money - well-priced food, drinks and greenfees. (The hamburgers here are 'world-beaters'.)

DISLIKES:

- The club is 160km from Johannesburg - a long way to travel for a round of golf, but a great stop on the way to Sun City.
- The fact that the course is rated outside the top 80 in South Africa - which proves that this system has its failings.



The Mercedes-Benz
E-Class Edition E.



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The best or nothing.

COTM

Rustenburg Golf Club



ABOVE The approach to the 340-metre par-four 18th is normally a short one, with the clubhouse framing the putting surface.


clubhouse (built in 1993) has everything one might expect: Honours boards, framed photographs of important office bearers, trophies, and a great atmosphere in the large 19th hole that looks out onto the course.

The pro shop is as well stocked as any one would find at a bigger, 'city' club, and the friendly, efficient staff members led by manager Jenny Zimmerman are a credit to the club.

This club is an excellent example of a facility that has taken whatever challenges were presented and bounced back, which says a lot about the astute leadership and good management. It may not have all the bells and whistles of a modern resort or estate club, but there is a lot to like about the place. On a limited budget, the maintenance contractor does a fine job of keeping the course in good shape, and in terms of value for money, (membership fees, visitor greenfees and food and beverage), it

doesn't come better than this.

In the days when this was little more than a fledgling club with a handful of holes, the local community was always quick to help with whatever had to be done. The farmers would not hesitate to send equipment to help with bush clearing, and when it was decided that the course required something more efficient than cattle to 'mow' the fairways, they again happily stepped in and made their equipment available. In the 90 years that have since passed, the same attitude prevails, and today when any specialised equipment is needed, the mines are happy to oblige.

Since the completion of the N4 highway, golfers en route to Sun City bypass Rustenburg, but we can recommend making a detour and finding the time for a round on one of our most endearing classic golf courses – they just don't make them like this any more. 



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The Mercedes-Benz E-Class Edition E.

Introducing the limited Edition E with AMG line package. The all new Mercedes-Benz E-Class Edition E sports 18-inch AMG 5-twin-spoke light-alloy wheels and front Sport Seats featuring pronounced lateral support.

And if that's not impressive enough it also comes equipped with a sport steering wheel and sports suspension. For just R13 000 extra you can drive the Mercedes-Benz E-Class Edition E with a number of added extras. Impress the unimpressible in the all-new Mercedes-Benz E-Class Edition E.



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The E-Class Edition E is now available with a special AMG Line package, which includes 18-inch AMG 5-twin-spoke light-alloy wheels; front Sport Seats featuring pronounced lateral support, and more. Test-drive the E-Class Edition E today, for a limited time only. Find out more about this impressive offer and book a test-drive by visiting your nearest dealer or www.mercedes-benz.co.za/e-class

Vehicle specifications may vary for the South African market.



MOMENTS IN TIME

CAPTURING MAGIC MOMENTS REQUIRES BEING IN THE RIGHT PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME WITH THE RIGHT EQUIPMENT. HERE'S THIS MONTH'S COLLECTION OF QUIRKY, BRILLIANT AND UNUSUAL SNAPSHOTS FROM ST ANDREWS.

1

WHY THE PALE FACE?

**LOUIS OOSTHUIZEN, 144TH
OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP
17 JULY 2015**

St Andrews, Scotland

We're not sure what to call this new piece of clothing to protect one's face from the wind and cold, all we know is it leaves one looking rather pale.

2. A DAMP FAREWELL

**NICK FALDO, 144TH
OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP
17 JULY 2015**

St Andrews, Scotland

It either rained very hard during this year's Open Championship, or it was just St Andrew's tears of joy that Sir Nick was finally getting off the hallowed golf course.

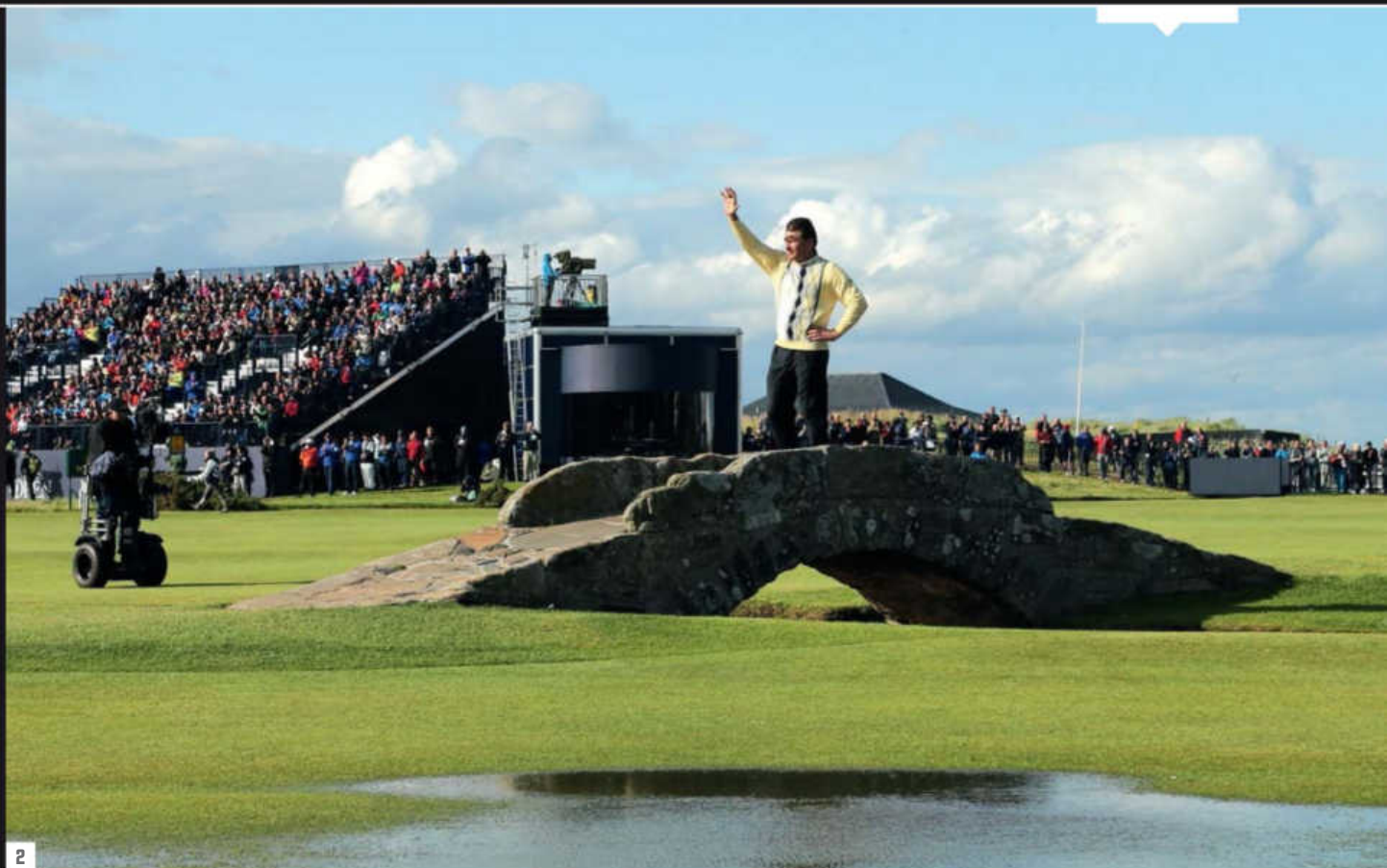
3. AN UNORTHODOX CHAMPION'S SWING

**JORDAN SPIETH, 144TH
OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP
19 JULY 2015**

St Andrews, Scotland

Most golf coaches will tell you that the position of Jordan's left elbow through impact is completely incorrect – until they see his bank balance, that is.





NOT OUT OF THE... BUSHES

**TIGER WOODS, 144TH
OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP**
17 JULY 2015

St Andrews, Scotland

He claimed his game had improved vastly and arrived at St Andrews looking good for another Major win. But Tiger is not out of the Woods – or bushes – just yet it seems.



A full-page photograph of Sergio Garcia in mid-swing on a golf course. He is wearing a grey polo shirt, grey trousers, and a grey cap. His right arm is raised, and his left arm is extended back, holding a golf club. The background is a blurred green field.

SERGIO IS THE ONE

SERGIO GARCÍA, 144TH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

19 JULY 2015

St Andrews, Scotland

We found out they are looking at reproducing the oh-so-popular *Matrix* movies, and it looks like Sergio wants to be considered for the role of Neo.

5. WALKING TABLE OF ELEMENTS

OLLIE SCHNIEDERJANS' FANS, 144TH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

16 JULY 2015

St Andrews, Scotland

Together, and in the right order, Ollie's fans spelt out his surname, but found that when walking apart, they looked like they were sporting various chemical elements. And that's been done many times before.

6. AMERICAN SWAGGER

ZACH JOHNSON, 144TH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

20 JULY 2015

St Andrews, Scotland

He never got to hold a trophy aloft after his last Major victory, so Zach made sure photographers captured exactly how he envisions his statue looking when he arrives home in Texas.

7. THE BRIGHTER SIDE OF A FAREWELL

TOM WATSON, 144TH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

17 JULY 2015

St Andrews, Scotland

Tom Watson stood on the Swilcan Bridge for the last time and his bright blue jersey and glove to match was the only reason we could see him.



TOUR RESULTS

US TOUR



THE GREENBRIER CLASSIC

**THE OLD WHITE TPC, WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS,
WEST VIRGINIA**

2-5 July 2015, \$6.7 million

DANNY LEE

The New Zealander won a four-way sudden-death playoff on the second hole to clinch The Greenbrier Classic. Tiger Woods showed signs of returning to form when he finished in a tie for 32nd.

1	Danny Lee	-13	63	69	68	67	267	\$1 206 000
(Lee won on the second playoff hole)								
2	Robert Streb	-13	68	67	67	65	267	\$500 267
	David Hearn	-13	68	64	68	67	267	\$500 267
	Kevin Kisner	-13	67	69	67	64	267	\$500 267
5	Russell Henley	-12	70	66	69	63	268	\$268 000
6	James Hahn	-11	66	67	70	66	269	\$195 736
	Chad Collins	-11	65	67	68	69	269	\$195 736
	Bryce Molder	-11	68	64	67	70	269	\$195 736
T73	Louis Oosthuizen	-2	70	68	73	67	278	\$13 065
MC	Tyrone van Aswegen, Rory Sabbatini, Richard Sterne, Trevor Immelman							



JOHN DEERE CLASSIC

TPC DEERE RUN, SILVIS, ILLINOIS

9-12 July 2015, \$4.7 million

JORDAN SPIETH

The in-form Texan beat Tom Gillis on the second hole of a sudden-death playoff in the John Deere Classic to claim his fourth victory of the season. With the win, Spieth became the first golfer since Tiger Woods in 2000 to win four times before the Open Championship.

1	Jordan Spieth	-20	71	64	61	68	264	\$846 000
(Spieth won on the second playoff hole)								
2	Tom Gillis	-20	66	65	69	64	264	\$507 600
3	Zach Johnson	-19	66	68	67	63	265	\$272 600
	Danny Lee	-19	68	68	62	67	265	\$272 600
5	Chris Stroud	-18	68	68	67	63	266	\$171 550
	Johnson Wagner	-18	68	63	68	67	266	\$171 550
	Justin Thomas	-18	63	67	69	67	266	\$171 550
T8	Steve Wheatcroft	-16	67	66	70	65	268	\$131 600
T55	Tyrone van Aswegen	-5	66	70	72	71	279	\$10 622
MC	Richard Sterne, Tim Clark, Trevor Immelman, Retief Goosen							



BARBASOL CHAMPIONSHIP

**RTJ TRAIL (GRAND NATIONAL), AUBURN/
OPELIKA, ALABAMA**

16-19 July 2015, \$3.5 million

SCOTT PIERCY

American Scott Piercy carded a closing-round 6-under-par 65 in Alabama to clinch the inaugural Barbasol Championship by three strokes over Will Wilcox. The win ended a three-year title drought.

1	Scott Piercy	-19	69	66	65	65	265	\$630 000
2	Will Wilcox	-16	66	70	65	67	268	\$378 000
3	Robby Shelton	-14	68	69	66	67	270	Amateur
	Whee Kim	-14	67	66	68	69	270	\$203 000
	Ricky Barnes	-14	67	68	65	70	270	\$203 000
6	Andrew Loupe	-13	68	70	68	65	271	\$122 938
	Boo Weekley	-13	67	69	68	67	271	\$122 938
	Austin Cook	-13	69	70	65	67	271	\$122 938
T32	Trevor Immelman	-8	70	69	67	70	276	\$21 219
T61	Tyrone van Aswegen	-3	70	70	69	72	281	\$7 560
MC	Richard Sterne							



RBC CANADIAN OPEN

GLEN ABBEY GOLF COURSE, ONTARIO, CANADA

23-26 July 2015, \$5.8 million

JASON DAY

Jason Day bounced back from a disappointing near miss in the Open Championship by winning the RBC Canadian Open. The Aussie drained a 22-footer for birdie on the 72nd hole at Glen Abbey Golf Course in Ontario for a one-stroke victory over Bubba Watson.

1	Jason Day	-17	68	66	69	68	271	\$1 044 000
2	Bubba Watson	-16	68	67	68	69	272	\$626 400
3	David Hearn	-15	69	64	68	72	273	\$394 400
4	Jim Furyk	-14	68	69	68	69	274	\$278 400
5	Tom Hoge	-13	70	70	69	66	275	\$220 400
	Stewart Cink	-13	68	73	68	66	275	\$220 400
T11	Rory Sabbatini	-11	72	69	69	67	277	\$115 171
T34	Tyrone van Aswegen	-8	66	75	68	71	280	\$28 669
T63	Tim Clark	-3	72	67	72	74	285	\$12 064
T76	Retief Goosen	+1	69	71	74	75	289	\$10 788
MC	Ernie Els, Richard Sterne							

EUROPEAN TOUR



ALSTOM OPEN DE FRANCE

LE GOLF NATIONAL, PARIS, FRANCE

2-5 July 2015, €3 million

BERND WIESBERGER

Bernd Wiesberger of Austria closed with a 6-under 65 to win the Alstom Open de France by three shots. Wiesberger began the final round three shots back of 54-hole leader Jaco van Zyl, but a front nine of 5-under 31 pushed the Austrian to the top of the leaderboard.

1	Bernd Wiesberger	-13	68	72	66	65	271	€500 000
2	James Morrison	-10	71	68	68	67	274	€333 330
3	Jaco van Zyl	-8	68	71	64	73	276	€187 800
4	Martin Kaymer	-7	69	69	69	70	277	€150 000
5	Rafael Cabrera Bello	-5	68	70	72	69	279	€127 200
6	Michael Lorenzo-Vera	-4	75	70	67	68	280	€84 300
	Andy Sullivan	-4	71	70	69	70	280	€84 300
	Francesco Molinari	-4	70	69	70	71	280	€84 300
T15	Jake Roos	-1	73	71	66	73	283	€40 560
T41	Trevor Fisher Jr	+5	74	71	65	79	289	€18 000
MC	Garth Mulroy, Hennie Otto, Darren Fichardt, Jbe' Kruger							



ABERDEEN ASSET MANAGEMENT SCOTTISH OPEN

GULLANE GOLF CLUB, GULLANE, SCOTLAND

9-12 July 2015, €3.25 million

RICKIE FOWLER

The American won his first European Tour title in fine style by making birdie on three of the last four holes to win by a single shot. His birdie on the final hole was particularly good, when he nearly holed out from the fairway.

1	Rickie Fowler	-12	66	66	66	68	268	€760 545
2	Raphaël Jacquelin	-11	68	67	64	70	269	€396 349
	Matt Kuchar	-11	66	68	67	68	269	€396 349
4	Joost Luiten	-10	71	63	66	70	270	€193 789
	Eddie Pepperell	-10	70	66	65	69	270	€193 789
	Marc Warren	-10	70	67	69	64	270	€193 789
T7	Daniel Brooks	-9	64	65	69	73	271	€117 734
T17	Branden Grace	-7	69	66	68	70	273	€56 950
T41	Thomas Aiken	-4	69	68	70	69	276	€23 729
T53	Jaco van Zyl	-3	69	66	74	68	277	€14 653
MC	Trevor Fisher Jr, Jbe' Kruger, Darren Fichardt, George Coetzee, Jake Roos							



THE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

ST ANDREWS LINKS (OLD COURSE), FIFE, SCOTLAND

16-20 July 2015, €9 125 million

ZACH JOHNSON

Zach Johnson claimed his second Major of his career when he defeated Louis Oosthuizen and Mark Leishman in a four-hole playoff. Johnson birdied the first two holes of the playoff and bogeyed the third, but it was good enough to win by a single stroke over Oosthuizen.

1	Zach Johnson	-15	66	71	70	66	273	€1 591 255
(Johnson won the four-hole playoff by one shot)								
2	Louis Oosthuizen	-15	67	70	67	69	273	€742 355
	Marc Leishman	-15	70	73	64	66	273	€742 355
T4	Jason Day	-14	66	71	67	70	274	€408 192
T20	Branden Grace	-7	69	72	73	67	281	€85 063
	Retief Goosen	-7	66	72	69	74	281	€85 063
T65	Ernie Els	-2	71	73	69	73	286	€21 240
T68	Charl Schwartzel	-1	67	72	69	79	287	€20 686
80	Thomas Aiken	+2	75	69	72	74	290	€19 372
MC	George Coetzee, Jaco van Zyl							



OMEGA EUROPEAN MASTERS

CRANS-SUR-SIERRE GOLF COURSE, CRANS

MONTANA, SWITZERLAND

23-26 July 2015, €2.7 million

DANNY WILLETT

Englishman Danny Willett fired a bogey-free final round of 65 at Crans-sur-Sierre Golf Club in Switzerland to claim the Omega European Masters by a shot over compatriot Matthew Fitzpatrick with Tyrrell Hatton in third.

1	Danny Willett	-17	65	62	71	65	263	€450 000
2	Matthew Fitzpatrick	-16	69	65	64	66	264	€300 000
3	Tyrrell Hatton	-15	65	68	70	62	265	€169 020
4	Pelle Edberg	-14	65	72	66	63	266	€135 000
5	Anirban Lahiri	-12	67	67	70	64	268	€114 480
6	Sergio García	-11	69	70	66	64	269	€94 500
7	Florian Fritsch	-10	70	66	70	64	270	€74 250
	Raphaël Jacquelin	-10	68	64	68	70	270	€74 250
71	Jbe' Kruger	+11	71	68	73	79	291	€5 130
MC	George Coetzee, Trevor Fisher Jr, Jake Roos, Jaco van Zyl, Darren Fichardt, Bryn Flanagan							

TOUR RESULTS

LPGA TOUR



US WOMEN'S OPEN

LANCASTER COUNTRY CLUB, LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIA

9-12 July 2015, \$4 million

IN GEE CHUN

South Korea's In Gee Chun birdied four of the last seven holes to rally for a one-stroke victory in the US Women's Open. The 20-year-old Chun closed with a 4-under 66 to finish on 8 under, one stroke ahead of compatriot Amy Yang.

1	In Gee Chun	-8	68	70	68	66	272	\$810 000
2	Amy Yang	-7	67	66	69	71	273	\$486 600
3	Inbee Park	-5	68	70	70	67	275	\$267 072
	Stacy Lewis	-5	69	67	69	70	275	\$267 072
5	Brooke M Henderson	-3	70	73	68	66	277	\$141 396
	So Yeon Ryu	-3	72	68	70	67	277	\$141 396
	Pernilla Lindberg	-3	70	70	70	67	277	\$141 396
	Morgan Pressel	-3	68	70	71	68	277	\$141 396
	Jane Park	-3	66	72	71	68	277	\$141 396
T56	Lee-Anne Pace	+9	73	69	77	70	289	\$12 268
MC	Bertine Strauss							



LPGA MARATHON CLASSIC

HIGHLAND MEADOWS GOLF CLUB, SYLVANIA, OHIO

16-19 July 2015, \$1.5 million

CHELLA CHOI

Chella Choi of South Korea defeated fellow countrywoman Ha Na Jang on the first hole of a sudden-death playoff to win the LPGA Marathon Classic in Ohio. It was Choi's first LPGA Tour victory.

1	Chella Choi	-14	73	66	65	66	270	\$225 000
	(Choi won on the first playoff hole)							
2	Ha Na Jang	-14	66	67	69	68	270	\$139 217
3	Lydia Ko	-13	71	68	67	67	271	\$89 559
	Shanshan Feng	-13	69	67	68	67	271	\$89 559
5	Hyo Joo Kim	-11	71	68	67	67	273	\$52 465
	Brittany Lang	-11	68	71	66	68	273	\$52 465
	Q Baek	-11	68	67	68	70	273	\$52 465
T22	Lee-Anne Pace	-6	67	70	69	72	278	\$13 804
T48	Ashleigh Simon	0	72	70	70	72	284	\$5 216
T66	Paula Reto	+5	69	74	73	73	289	\$3 316



MEIJER LPGA CLASSIC PRESENTED BY KRAFT

BLYTHEFIELD COUNTRY CLUB, GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

23-26 July 2015, \$2 million

LEXI THOMPSON

Lexi Thompson of the US rallied from four shots back with a 6-under final round of 65 to win the Meijer LPGA Classic in Grand Rapids, Michigan. It was Thompson's fifth LPGA Tour victory.

1	Lexi Thompson	-18	69	64	68	65	266	\$300 000
2	Gerina Pillier	-17	69	65	69	64	267	\$156 096
	Lizette Salas	-17	64	69	64	70	267	\$156 096
4	So Yeon Ryu	-15	70	68	65	66	269	\$91 631
	Kris Tamulis	-15	66	68	67	68	269	\$91 631
6	Brittany Lang	-14	69	69	66	66	270	\$66 866
7	Brittany Lincicome	-12	70	68	65	69	272	\$55 970
T8	Xi Yu Lin	-11	71	70	66	66	273	\$42 596
	Amy Anderson	-11	68	70	69	66	273	\$42 596
T27	Lee-Anne Pace	-6	71	69	69	69	278	\$15 899
MC	Paula Reto, Ashleigh Simon							

LADIES EUROPEAN TOUR



ISPS HANDA LADIES EUROPEAN MASTERS

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE GOLF CLUB, DENHAM, ENGLAND

2-5 July 2015, €500 000

BETH ALLEN

American Beth Allen fired a 5-under final round of 67 to come from five shots behind overnight leader Caroline Masson and claim the ISPS HANDA Ladies European Masters for her first Ladies European Tour title.

1	Beth Allen	-12	71	70	68	67	276	€75 000
2	Leona Maguire	-11	69	70	69	69	277	Amateur
3	Nontaya Srisawang	-10	67	70	69	72	278	€45 000
4	Rebecca Artis	-9	70	72	66	71	279	€23 500
	Nicole Broch Larsen	-9	69	69	71	70	279	€23 500
	Caroline Masson	-9	70	67	67	75	279	€23 500
T7	Laura Davies	-8	71	70	72	67	280	€13 500
T13	Ashleigh Simon	-6	67	72	72	71	282	€9 375
T22	Stacey Lee Bregman	-4	70	71	75	68	284	€7 400
T66	Laurette Maritz	+11	75	71	76	77	299	€1 525
MC	Monique Smit, Melissa Eaton, Connie Chen, Nicole Garcia,							



ABERDEEN ASSET MANAGEMENT LADIES SCOTTISH OPEN

DUNDONALD LINKS, TROON, SCOTLAND

24-26 July 2015, €500 000

REBECCA ARTIS

Australia's Rebecca Artis rallied to win the Ladies Scottish Open, shooting a 6-under 66 in the final round for a two-stroke victory over Norway's Suzann Pettersen. It was Artis' second victory on the Ladies European Tour.

1	Rebecca Artis	-6	75	69	66	210	€75 000
2	Suzann Pettersen	-4	68	70	74	212	€50 750
3	Holly Clyburn	-2	73	67	74	214	€35 000
4	Klara Spilkova	-1	74	69	72	215	€24 100
	Lydia Ko	-1	68	73	74	215	€24 100
6	Hannah Burke	+1	72	73	72	217	€17 500
7	Beth Allen	+2	75	70	73	218	€15 000
T27	Nicole Garcia	+6	71	75	76	222	€5 025
T39	Stacey Lee Bregman	+8	73	71	80	224	€3 360
53	Connie Chen	+18	72	79	83	234	€2 550
MC Laurette Maritz							



RICOH WOMEN'S BRITISH OPEN

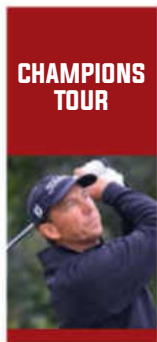
AILSA LINKS, TRUMP TURNBERRY RESORT, SCOTLAND

30 July-2 August 2015, €2 455 890

INBEE PARK

South Korea's Inbee Park became the second-youngest winner of the career Grand Slam, behind Tiger Woods, when the 27-year-old triumphed in the Ricoh Women's British Open at the Trump Turnberry Resort.

1	Inbee Park	-12	69	73	69	65	276	€298 534
2	Jin-Young Ko	-9	68	71	69	71	279	€194 050
3	So Yeon Ryu	-8	67	72	73	68	280	€124 832
	Lydia Ko	-8	66	73	72	69	280	€124 832
5	Suzann Pettersen	-7	68	69	72	72	281	€87 649
6	Teresa Lu	-6	68	71	69	74	282	€71 713
7	Anna Nordqvist	-5	69	72	73	69	283	€56 308
	Mika Miyazato	-5	68	72	70	73	283	€56 308
T24	Lee-Anne Pace	+2	75	73	74	68	290	€20 690
T66	Ashleigh Simon	+12	72	77	76	75	300	€4 674
MC Paula Reto, Nicole Garcia								



CHAMPIONS TOUR

ENCOMPASS CHAMPIONSHIP

NORTH SHORE COUNTRY CLUB, GLENVIEW, ILLINOIS

10-12 July 2015, \$1.9 million

JERRY SMITH

The 51-year-old American Jerry Smith carded a 2-under final-round 70 to win the Encompass Championship by three shots over South African David Frost for his first Champions Tour title.

1	Jerry Smith	-16	66	64	70	200	\$285 000
2	David Frost	-13	65	70	68	203	\$167 200
3	Wes Short Jr	-12	70	66	68	204	\$136 800
4	Woody Austin	-11	67	68	70	205	\$101 650
	Bart Bryant	-11	69	66	70	205	\$101 650
6	Duffy Waldorf	-10	69	67	70	206	\$64 600
	Fred Funk	-10	65	70	71	206	\$64 600
	Lee Janzen	-10	65	70	71	206	\$64 600
	Mike Goodes	-10	66	67	73	206	\$64 600
10	Fred Couples	-9	68	72	67	207	\$45 600
	Kenny Perry	-9	69	70	68	207	\$45 600



THE SENIOR OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP PRESENTED BY ROLEX

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23-26 July 2015, \$2.1 million

MARCO DAWSON

Colin Montgomerie's hopes of landing his first Senior British Open were crushed as American journeyman Marco Dawson secured the title, firing a 64 in the final round to win by one shot.

1	Marco Dawson	-16	65	67	68	64	264	€295 395
2	Bernhard Langer	-15	65	68	68	64	265	€196 978
3	Colin Montgomerie	-13	67	67	66	67	267	€110 872
4	Miguel Ángel Jiménez	-11	65	69	68	67	269	€88 626
5	Woody Austin	-8	69	67	70	66	272	€68 575
	Fred Couples	-8	68	66	69	69	272	€68 575
7	Jeff Maggert	-7	71	67	66	69	273	€48 705
	Philip Walton	-7	71	67	65	70	273	€48 705
T67	David Frost	+7	68	71	71	77	287	€3 460
T72	Christopher Williams	+8	69	73	70	76	288	€3 117
MC Bobby Lincoln								

19TH HOLE

OUR FINAL SWING
Interesting trivia from the world of golf.

THE BOSSES

We all know about the top players on the various golf tours – but who are the people in charge of running the tours?

US TOUR – TIM FINCHEM

Now in his 22nd year in charge, Finchem is the longest serving of all the tours' bosses. Under his watch, prizemoney on the US Tour has skyrocketed and the 68-year-old former lawyer has helped to introduce The Presidents Cup, The FedEx Cup and he's been instrumental in the formation of the International Federation of PGA Tours and the World Golf Foundation.

EUROPEAN TOUR – GEORGE O'GRADY/ KEITH PELLEY (CHIEF EXECUTIVE)

Canadian media mogul Keith Pelley has been hired to replace O'Grady, who has been with the tour for over 40 years. Pelley's appointment as chief executive in many ways reflects a freshening up of the European Tour as he brings 29 years of sports broadcasting experience with him, having been pried away from his role as president of Rogers Media, a massive media conglomerate.

SUNSHINE TOUR – SELWYN NATHAN (EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR)

Former tour professional and highly successful businessman Selwyn Nathan took



1 Tim Finchem. **2** Keith Pelley. **3** Selwyn Nathan. **4** Mike Whan. **5** Ivan Khodabakhsh. **6** Mike Kerr.

over the reins of the Sunshine Tour from Gareth Tindall in 2011, having been closely involved with the tour since its inception. Nathan is well liked by players and sponsors and has further built on Tindall's successes, with more co-sanctioned tournaments and bigger purses for the players.

LPGA TOUR – MIKE WHAN

Whan is the eighth commissioner of the LPGA Tour and his role has primarily been to enhance business relationships, increase exposure for the players and maximise the LPGA Tour experience for fans. By all accounts, Whan has been a roaring success, with more tournaments on the calendar and more sponsors eager to be a part of the LPGA Tour's success story.

He's also managed to get women's golf shown live on television in the US, something that is seen as vital for the growth of the game.

LADIES EUROPEAN TOUR – IVAN KHODABAKHSH (CHIEF EXECUTIVE)

Khodabakhsh took over as CEO in 2012

and is responsible for the day-to-day management of the tour. His biggest challenge must be to find a way to raise the profile of the tour to somewhere near that of the LPGA Tour – at the moment it falls well short in terms of the number of tournaments and prizemoney.

During his reign, the SA Women's Open became part of the expanded tour – and there is some hope that there will be more events in SA to follow.

ASIAN TOUR – MIKE KERR (CHIEF EXECUTIVE)

Another to join the golf industry from the world of broadcasting, Northern Irishman Kerr is now three years into a 10-year plan to boost the Asian Golf Tour. After a slow start to his tenure, where the tour lost a number of tournaments and faced a stiff challenge from the OneAsia Tour, things are looking up and, like the Sunshine Tour, the Asian Tour is benefitting greatly from its working partnership with the European Tour. **cc**

WHAT TO LOOK FORWARD TO IN OCTOBER...

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International skipper Nick Price's President's Cup strategy.

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